PAPERS

RELATING TO

IMMIGRATION TO THE WEST INDIAN COLONIES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
August 1857.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE.
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1857.

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BRITISH GUIANA.

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PAPERS

RELATING TO

IMMIGRATION TO THE WEST INDIAN COLONIES.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from the DUKE of NEWCASTLE to Lieut.-Governor WALKER.

(No. 175.)

SIR, Downing Street, January 16, 1854.

I HAVE delayed answering your Despatch of the 9th of August, respecting the disallowance of the Ordinance No. 3. of 1853, until I could communicate to you the decision of Her Majesty's Government respecting the terms under which Cooley immigration may hereafter be carried on. Of this I am now able to inform you. But I have first to notice the * protest signed by four out of five elective members of the Court of Policy which was enclosed in your Despatch.

* Vide Appendix, No. 13, page 448.

2. You will inform those gentlemen that the grounds on which the Ordinance No. 3. was disallowed have been already so fully stated that it can hardly be necessary to repeat them in answer to objections which I am sure they will on reconsideration perceive to be untenable.

3. I could wish, however, that, when arguments of this character are urged against the measures of Government, they should be met on the spot, and at once by the Lieut.-Governor himself; and that you may be able to do this I think it best, without restating the substantial objections to the Ordinance, to observe on some of those points in which the members of the Court of Policy consider themselves aggrieved.

4. They complain that instead of suggesting an amendment of the Ordinance I should have advised its summary disallowance; they complain that I should have expressed my surprise that changes of such importance should have been made without submitting their substance to the Secretary of State; and they appear to expect a withdrawal of the observation, that the 33d clause of the Ordinance was "wholly inconsistent with good faith."

5. Now the Court of Policy cannot possibly have been unaware that the duration of contracts was a subject which successive Secretaries of State had considered with a care approaching to jealousy; that the extension of those contracts even to three years had been conceded gradually and with hesitation by Mr. Gladstone, Lord Grey, and Sir John Pakington; and that the further extension to five years was very liable, if not most likely, to be disapproved. They also knew that the emigration of Coolies was permitted by the Indian authorities on the understanding, that it was to be carried on in a certain manner, and on certain terms, supposed to be necessary for the protection of the immigrants. And under these circumstances it was certainly to be expected that the legalization or rather enforcement of engagements for five years should be a matter of arrangement between the colonists and the Imperial Government.

6. Instead of taking this course, the legislature summarily passed a law, which, before it could even reach the knowledge of the Secretary of State, subjected a number of Coolies to contracts of an unprecedented length, and which, unless promptly repealed or disallowed, would have imposed the same obligation on a large number whose immigration was already in progress on a different understanding. It is evident that the operation of such a law, if arrested at all, should have been arrested immediately; and it is not less clear that this object would not be accomplished by any other means than an immediate disallowance, for you will doubtless remember that the course now indicated by the Court of Policy was adopted by Lord Grey in respect of the Immigration Ordinance of 1848, and the result was that the law remained unamended for more than two years.

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7. I think, therefore, that it is a natural subject of surprise that the Court of Policy, to whom none of these facts could be unknown, should have deliberately forced on Her Majesty's Government the alternative of either disallowing an important Ordinance, or acquiescing in what they strongly disapproved. And having themselves taken so decisive a course, they cannot complain that I should have advised Her Majesty to take the only effectual mode which they had left me of protecting the interest of the immigrants.

8. The third complaint of the members of the Court of Policy is that certain provisions of the Ordinance should have been characterised as "inconsistent with good faith." I need hardly recall to your mind the clause (s. 33.) which justifies this expression. It imposes on all Coolies who had accepted a bonus in commutation of their back passages the immediate necessity of entering into indentures for the full period, sometimes amounting to five years, for which they had engaged to remain in the colony. The Coolies' consent was not required by law to these indentures, nor did it appear that when they received the colonial bounty they had any warning that its acceptance would be saddled with so stringent a condition; a condition the more onerous from that very versatility which forms the defect of their character. The law, therefore, appeared on its face to be a violent ex post facto alteration of engagements already concluded.

9. To this it is first replied, that no Cooley was in fact re-indentured, except according to his own desire, and at the place of his choice.

10. I am of course glad to hear that the executive authorities made a considerate use of the arbitrary powers with which the legislature had invested them. This circumstance, however, is evidently no justification of the enactment itself; and if the members of the Court of Policy appeal to it as interpreting the meaning of the legislature, they must, I think, have forgotten that on the 4th March last that very body passed a resolution requesting the Governor to take measures for "compelling" immigrants who had commuted their return passages to come under indentures.

11. It is also stated that all the Coolies were warned, officially and otherwise, that they might receive bounties in proportion to the number of years "of re-indenture." If this statement means that all Coolies who deferred their back passages for five years did so with an official intimation that they would be required to re-indenture themselves for that period, it furnishes a satisfactory answer to any imputation of breach of faith. If this was the case, I much regret that it was not stated to me when the Ordinance was transmitted to this country; but I cannot imagine that it was so; for I observe that no less than 2,152 Coolies had commuted their right to a back passage before the 27th of November 1851.* And it is incredible that any Government authorities would have informed these persons that in accepting the Government bounty they were incurring an obligation which then and for fourteen months afterwards (i.e. till the passing of the Ordinance of 31st January 1853) was actually contrary to law.

12. I am wholly unable, therefore, to place on the Ordinance any other construction than that which it bears on its face, or to withdraw the expression with which the members of the Court of Policy are dissatisfied.

13. I now turn from this subject to the less unpleasing task of stating the terms on which I consider that the future immigration of Coolies may properly be carried on.

14. I collect that it is found impracticable or mischievous to exact from the Cooley any periodical payments, and consequently that it is not possible to enforce industrial residence, in the sense in which it was contemplated by Lord Grey. The members of the Court of Policy therefore suggest certain heads of an arrangement which may be shortly described as follows:

I. Eight years' residence in the colony, of which five under indenture.

II. Right to return passage on payment of $45.

III. Right to determine contracts on reasonable terms.

IV. Permission to commute return passages, either absolutely, or for a given term, without re-indenture.

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* Return of Bounties, dated 27th November 1851, printed in Report of Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners for 1852, Appendix, p. 185.

15. I have considered these suggestions with a serious desire to accept them, as they are put forward by those whose interests are most deeply involved in the settlement of this question, and whose experience entitles their opinion to the greatest weight. This I am not wholly able to do. But I hope the following conditions will be considered scarcely, if at all, less favorable to the employers of labour.

In India Board Letter of 3d Nov. 1853.

I. and II. The Indian Government (as you will see by the enclosed correspondence) have consented that the Coolies shall not be entitled to a return passage till after a residence in the colony of ten years. On this point, therefore, I am able to offer the colonists more favourable terms than they have themselves proposed. I could not, however, consent that the period of indenture, which is now three years, should be extended to five. The shorter period is sufficient to repay the planter for the expense attending the reception of immigrants; and I think it very undesirable to postpone, more than is necessary for this purpose, the period at which the immigrants become at liberty to choose their own employers. But I hope that five years' fair labour may be secured to the colony, without hardship to the immigrants, under the following conditions:

1. A three years' indenture on arrival.

2. At the expiration of that period the Cooley to have the option of re-indenturing himself to the same or some other master for one or two years, or of commuting for 5*l.* the remaining two years of his industrial residence.

3. In case of re-indenture for one year, the same option to be given at the end of that year, the alternative payment, however, being reduced to 2*l.* 10*s.*

4. At the end of five years the immigrant to be free from any further obligation to industrial residence, and at liberty to return, at his own expense, to India, but not to be entitled to a return passage till the expiration of the ten years now conceded by the Indian Government.

It is expected, however, that the Colonial Government will make arrangements to afford the Indians every facility for returning to their country, at their own cost, after the expiration of their first five years' industrial residence.

You will observe that the Indian Government contemplate an industrial residence for ten years as a condition of receiving a return passage. But the nature of that residence is so much altered by the abolition of periodical payments, that I have not thought it right to avail myself of this concession; nor can I see any contrivance for giving it effect which does not involve either a series of compulsory indentures, to which I should strongly object, or periodical payments, which I understood to be impracticable. I have therefore proposed to the Court of Directors that the Cooley should be relieved from this obligation during the concluding five years of his stay in the colony, and in consideration of this advantage should be required to pay $35 towards the cost of his return passage. This proposal has been referred to the Government of India. If it should be acceded to, the question of industrial residence for the second five years will be disposed of. If not, I should be prepared to consider favourably any mode of securing the Cooley's industry for the full period of his residence. If, for instance, the collection of periodical payments could be rendered practicable, by requiring the unindentured Cooley to confine himself for a stated period to a district chosen by himself, and recorded by a government officer, I should not object to the principle of such a law. This, however, is a matter to be decided by local experience. My own impression is, that, whatever becomes of the contributions to return passages, it will be the best wisdom of the colonists to adopt the more liberal course of allowing the immigrant, after five years of bonâ fide labour, on payment of an equivalent, to take his place among the free labouring population of the colony.

III. I do not think it necessary that the Cooley should have any right of determining his contract, except that already described, at the end of the 3d and 4th years of his industrial residence. But it will of course be necessary that the stipendiary magistrate should possess the power of annulling his contract, and transferring him to another master, on any well-founded course of complaint or proved breach of contract. And it would be well that to meet unforeseen contingencies the Governor should be invested with a power of determining contracts at his pleasure, similar to that given by the Trinidad Ordinance, No. 3. of 1853, s. 7.

BRITISH GUIANA.

IV. With regard to immigrants already in the colony, I have already stated to you that I do not feel at liberty to authorize the absolute commutation of return passages. The same considerations which led me to this conclusion would of course apply to Coolies now in course of introduction. But the period at which the question will arise in regard to those immigrants is so distant, that I do not think it necessary to pronounce any decision on a question which may have wholly changed its character during the interval.

I hope that these terms, which do not very materially differ from those suggested by the members of the Court of Policy, will give satisfaction to the colonists. They are the result of very careful consideration, and are suggested with the most anxious desire to give the enterprising planters of British Guiana every facility for the introduction and employment of labour which is consistent with the welfare and advancement of the labourer. And I trust that, with the cordial co-operation of the legislature, they may be made effectual for two objects, which, though sometimes in apparent conflict, are in fact so indissolubly united.

I have, &c.

To Lieut.-Governor Walker, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Encl. in No. 1.

Enclosure in No. 1.

SIR, India Board, November 3, 1853.

WITH reference to your letter of the 7th May last, and to my reply of the 23d of the same month, I am directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to transmit to you a copy of a letter from Mr. Melvill, together with a copy of the Despatch and enclosures from the Government of India therein referred to, detailing the proceedings which they have adopted with a view to the extension of the term of industrial residence of Coolies at British Guiana and Trinidad.

27th Oct. 1853.

In laying these papers before his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, I have to express the wish of the Board that you will move his Lordship to take into his favourable consideration the various suggestions of the Court of Directors of the East India Company contained in Mr. Melvill's letter.

The Board have much satisfaction at learning from your letter of the 28th ultimo that fresh instructions have been issued to the surgeons of ships, in order to secure, as far as possible, the health and comfort of Coolies returning from the West Indies to India.

I am, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) WM. LEACH.

SIR, East India House, October 27, 1853.

WITH reference to your letter of the 10th May last, and its enclosures, I am commanded by the Court of Directors of the East India Company to suggest to the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India that the letter from the Governor General in Council, under date the 2d September last, with its enclosures, may be communicated for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

It will be seen that instructions have been given that it may be intimated to Indian labourers hereafter emigrating to British Guiana and Trinidad that they will not be entitled to a passage back to India at the public expense until they shall have completed a period of ten years of industrial residence, instead of five years, as heretofore, in the colony to which they are engaged to emigrate. They will, however, be entitled to leave the colony, and return to India, at their own expense, after having completed a period of five years of industrial residence.

The Court of Directors trust that care will be taken to provide passages at the public expense at the end of five years for all Indian labourers who may have emigrated under the former terms of engagement, and may be desirous of returning to India. They also trust that the means of returning may be afforded to any labourers emigrating under the new terms who may be desirous to return at their own expense after a period of five years of industrial residence.

The Court of Directors are further desirous that the particular attention of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle may be drawn to the representation of the Governor General in Council with regard to the deficiency of medical inspection on the different estates in the West India colonies, and with regard also to the arrangements which may have been adopted for providing a regular system for the health and comfort of emigrants returning from the West Indies to India.

I have, &c.

Sir T. N. Redington, K.C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES C. MELVILL.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

(Legislative, No. 16. of 1853.)

To the Honourable the COURT OF DIRECTORS of the EAST INDIA COMPANY.

HONOURABLE SIRS,

No. 8. of 1853 of 4th May.
No. 9. of 1853 of 1st June.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches as per margin, and to transmit the accompanying papers, showing in what manner they have been acted upon.

2. A copy of your Despatch No. 8., with its enclosures, has been communicated to the Governments of Madras, Bombay, and Bengal.

3. With reference to your Despatch No. 9., we transmit a copy of the instructions which we have issued to the Government of Bengal, after calling for and receiving reports from the protector of emigrants and the emigration agent at Calcutta, on the subject of prolonging the term of industrial residence of emigrants in British Guiana and Trinidad before they shall be entitled to a free return passage.

4. In communicating our proceedings in this matter, we take the opportunity of calling the attention of your Honourable Court to that part of Mr. Caird's report of the 18th of March last, forwarded to us with your Despatch No. 8., which speaks of the insufficient medical inspection of the emigrants on the different estates, in order that the notice of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies may be distinctly drawn to the fact; and we beg to express a hope that we may be favoured on an early date with a communication informing us that means have been adopted in the colonies for rendering that inspection more efficient, and for putting on a permanent footing the suggestions already made by the Governor of Bengal, in the letter dated 19th March 1852, with reference to the necessary provisions to be made for the health and comfort of the emigrants on their return passage.

We have, &c.

Fort William, September 2, 1853.

(Signed) DALHOUSIE.
J. LOWIS.
J. DORIN.
B. PEACOCK.

From E. THOMAS, Esquire, Officiating Under Secretary to Government of India, to SECRETARIES to the Governments of Madras, Bombay, and Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated 22d June 1853.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Governor General of India in Council to forward to you, for the information of the the accompanying Despatch from the Honourable the Court of Directors, No. 8. of 1853, dated 4th May, and of its enclosures, consisting of papers relating to a visit recently made to the colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad by Mr. Caird, emigration agent of the port of Calcutta, now on leave of absence, together with returns containing information regarding the number of Indian labourers in British Guiana, and the number of deaths which have occurred among them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. THOMAS,
Off. Under Sec. India.

(No. 490.)

From GEORGE PLOWDEN, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Government of India, to CECIL BEADON, Esquire, Secretary to Government of Bengal, dated the 22d July 1853.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward to you the accompanying copy of a Despatch from the Honourable the Court of Directors, No. 9. of 1853, dated 1st June last, and of its enclosures, and to state that, before coming to any decision on the proposition therein contained for extending the term of industrial residence of emigrants in British Guiana and Trinidad from five to eight or ten years, the Governor General in Council is desirous of possessing the sentiments of the protector of emigrants and the emigration agent at Calcutta as to whether emigrants to those colonies would be likely to object to such prolongation.

2. You are accordingly requested, under the orders of the Most Noble the Governor, to call upon the officers above-named for their opinion on the question, and to transmit the same for the consideration of the Government of India with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE PLOWDEN,
Off. Sec. India.

BRITISH GUIANA. MINUTE by the Honourable B. PEACOCK, with remarks by the Most Noble the Governor General and the Honourable J. A. Dorin, dated 18th July 1853.

Return passage of Coolies emigrating to the West Indies.

No alteration in the law here appears to be necessary. Act 21 of 1844, relating to British Guiana and Trinidad, does not contain a section corresponding with section 1. of No. 15. of 1842, the Act relating to Mauritius.

I believe there is a law in British Guiana and Trinidad providing for a free passage for the return of Indian Coolies at the end of five years. If so, it will only be necessary to alter such law there, and to explain to Coolies, previously to their emigrating to those colonies, that a free passage will not be provided for their return until the expiration of ten years, instead of five years, as now adopted in practice.

The only power that the Governor General of India in Council has to prevent the repeal of any such law in the colonies above mentioned is, his power to repeal Act 21 of 1844, if the Colonial Government should, without his consent, adopt any course contrary to that at present established.

The consent of the Governor General of India in Council is therefore indirectly required previously to making any change.

With reference to the question propounded for the consideration of the Governor General in Council, I see no objection to extending the term of industrial residence to ten years, instead of five, to entitle the emigrant* to a free return passage with Coolies who may be permanently the exception, of disabled by sickness or accident from gaining a livelihood. They should be entitled to a free passage home even before the end of five years; and it should be optional with all emigrants to return at their own expense at the end of five years industrial residence, unless they renew their engagements. The last report upon the subject of the condition of the Coolies in British Guiana and Trinidad is very favourable; they can earn from thirty to forty cents a day, working seven hours. The average of deaths from 1845 to 1852 was three per cent. per annum, such average being much increased by the number of deaths in the last year, which was one of unusual sickness.

* (Sic in orig.)

Mr. Caird, in his report of the 18th March last, subsequent to his visiting the colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad, says, "The industrious and efficient Coolies who have "emigrated are doing as well as any people in their position could be doing; they are "highly appreciated by their employers and the planters;" and again, in another part of the same report, "a large number have acquired wealth, and all the industrious ones are "living in great comfort, and are perfectly contented with their position, and have not in "a single instance complained of unkind treatment." He says also,

"It takes from twelve to eighteen months before they become acclimatized, but after "that period, generally speaking, they enjoy good health, if they have not suffered from "the effects of the voyage. The children born in the West Indies are very robust and "healthy, and I have never seen any of the lower class in the east that could be compared "to the Coolies' children in the west."

It appears, however, from the same report, that in many instances the Coolies are not sufficiently inspected by the medical men, and that in this respect more efficient arrangements ought to be made.

Should the Most Noble the Governor General and my honourable colleagues agree with me in thinking that the period of industrial residence may be extended from five to ten years, all that will be necessary is to make known the decision at an early date to the emigration agent and protector of emigrants, and to request them to cause the change to be distinctly explained to all labourers proposing to emigrate to those colonies.

In communicating the decision to the Court of Directors, I think it may be advisable to call attention to that part of Mr. Caird's report which speaks of the insufficient medical inspection, in order that the attention of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies may be distinctly called to the fact; and probably the Governor General in Council might not think it out of place that the communication should be accompanied by an expression of a hope that his Lordship in Council may be informed on an early date that means have been adopted in the colonies for rendering the inspection of Coolies more efficient, and for putting on a permanent footing the suggestions already made by the Governor of Bengal in his letter of the 19th March 1852, with reference to the necessary provisions to be made for the health and comfort of the Coolies on their return passage.

(Signed) B. PEACOCK.

I am fully disposed to concur in the opinion expressed by Mr. Peacock in favour of extending the period of residence..

Before coming to any decision, it will be right to refer the Despatch to the protector of emigrants formally, in order that he may state whether emigrants would be likely to object to such prolongation.

23d July 1853. (Signed) DALHOUSIE.

I confess I have doubts as to the expediency of sanctioning so long a term of industrial residence as ten years, which would amount almost to a prohibition against returning to India at all; and I shall be glad to hear what the protector of emigrants and Mr. Caird think of the proposition. Between the Mauritius and India there is such constant com-

munication that a Coolie can get back pretty nearly when he pleases; but from the West Indies, if the right of passage within a moderate period is denied him, the power of return is nearly if not quite hopeless. If Coolies are well treated in the West Indies they will stay of their own accord, without any authoritative measures for protracted residences; and if they won't stay under good treatment I should the more infer the compulsory regulations are objectionable.

25th July 1853. (Signed) J. DORIN.

No. 1519.

From W. GORDON YOUNG, Esquire, Under Secretary of Bengal, to G. COUPER, Esquire, Officiating Under Secretary, Government of India, dated Fort William, 13th August 1853.

SIR,

WITH reference to the letter from your office, No. 490, dated the 22d ultimo, and enclosure, I am directed by the Most Noble the Governor of Bengal to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Government of India, copies of reports received from the protector of emigrants and the emigration agent at the port of Calcutta, regarding the extension of the period of residence of emigrants in British Guiana and Trinidad.

No. 1. of 5th inst.
No. 11. of 6th inst.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GORDON YOUNG,
Under Sec. Gov. of Bengal.

No. 1.

From the PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS for the Port of Calcutta to W. GORDON YOUNG, Esquire, Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated August 5, 1853.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your memorandum, No. 1460, of 30th July last, with enclosures, requesting my opinion upon the proposition of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, "That the period of industrial residence "for East Indian emigrant labourers in the colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad be "extended from five to eight or ten years."

2d. In reply I have the honour to state, for the information of the Most Noble the Governor of Bengal, it is my opinion the proposed alteration will but slightly if at all affect the amount of emigration to those colonies immediately.

3d. Few, if any, of the people presenting themselves at the emigration depôt hear the full particulars of the conditions of an emigrant's engagement until made known to them by the emigration agent.

4th. Those from distant zillahs, jaded with their journey, and utterly destitute, rarely have any resource but compliance with such terms as may be offered them.

5th. Few, even from Burdwan, Hooghly, or the 24 pergunnahs, arrive in a condition to turn their backs upon the depôt, where they are certain of receiving food and shelter free of cost for the time.

6th. But as these changes become known in the provinces (the return passage from Mauritius, and an extension of service in the West Indies), a suspicion may arise that it is the British government's intention to keep them in the colonies altogether.

7th. Under such an influence the emigration agent may after a time find some difficulty in keeping up the supply of good labourers equal to the future demands of the colonies.

8th. With this impression, I respectfully submit that, as a preliminary to the desired extension to ten years, the period of eight years be first tried until the effect can be known.

9th. And the present privilege of returning to India as soon as he can pay his own passage, with the amount of fine as at present levied for his period short of five years' industrial residence, be continued and confirmed to the emigrant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DIVIE ROBERTSON,
Protector of Emigrants.

No. 11. of 1853.

From T. CAIRD, Esquire, Emigration Agent, to C. BEADON, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated August 6, 1853.

SIR,

I HAVE had the honour to receive a copy of a communication from the officiating secretary to the Government of India to the address of the secretary to the Government of Bengal, with its enclosures, and with a request that I would state, for the information of the Most Noble the Governor of Bengal, my sentiments with regard to extending the term of industrial residence of Indian labourers in the colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad from five to eight or ten years.

BRITISH GUIANA.

2d. I cannot say what the feelings of intending emigrants may be on this point, as no emigration is going on at present to the West Indies, but, judging from the conversations that I have had with a number of the Coolies now in the colonies, as well with my experience of the working of the industrious ones who came under my own observation, I should say that the really good labourers who emigrate with a desire of bettering their condition would in nowise object to the extension of time proposed.

3d. The Government of India, I believe, is already aware that there are a large number of Coolies in the West Indies who have accepted at the expiration of their fifth year of industrial residence ten and fifty dollars for a renewal of their engagement for one and five years respectively. It is to be presumed, therefore, that if there was any great dislike to the West Indies on the part of the good labourers now there they would not have taken the bonus for a second engagement when they might have obtained a free passage back to India at the Government expense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. CAIRD, Emigration Agent.

From G. PLOWDEN, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India to C. BEADON, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated September 2, 1853.

SIR,

Government of India to Government of Bengal, No. 490, dated 22d July.

Government of Bengal in reply, No. 1519, dated 18th August.

WITH reference to the correspondence noted on the margin, I am directed by the Most Noble the Governor General in Council to communicate to you the following observations and instructions.

The question raised in the letter of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, as his Lordship in Council understands it, is not whether the Coolies who emigrate to the West Indian colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad shall be bound to serve an industrial residence for eight or ten years instead of five, as at present, but whether the Government of India will permit the emigration of Coolies to those colonies if the Governments of those colonies refuse to bind themselves to provide a free return passage before the end of eight or ten years' industrial residence.

The Coolies, as his Lordship in Council understands the proposal, are to be at liberty to return, as now, at the end of five years' industrial residence, but in such case they must pay for their own return passage.

As to this understanding, his Lordship in Council sees no objection to an extension of the term which entitles an emigrant Coolie to a free return passage from five years to ten years. It is for the colonies to consider whether the effect of such an alteration will prevent them from obtaining a supply of Indian labourers equal to the demand. Should it have that effect, it will be for the interest of the colonies to return to the present state of things.

You will be good enough, therefore, to make known this decision to the emigration agent and protector of emigrants without delay, instructing them to be very careful to see that the nature of the alteration is distinctly explained to future emigrants, viz., that they will be entitled to return at the end of five years' industrial residence, as now, but at their own expense. To entitle them to a free return passage they will have to serve an industrial residence of ten years instead of five years, as now.

* (Sic in orig. Qy., "of course not have any retrospective effect.")

The new rule will of course have any prospective* effect. Coolies who may have emigrated before the new rule comes into operation will be entitled to a free return passage at the end of five years' industrial residence, according to the old terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. PLOWDEN,
Off. Sec. Gov. of India.

From GEORGE PLOWDEN, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, to the SECRETARY to the Governments of Madras and Bombay, dated September 2, 1853.

SIR,

Government of India to Government of Bengal, No 490, dated 22d July.

Government of Bengal in reply, No. 1519, dated 13th August, and Enclosure.

Government of India to Government of Bengal, dated 2d Sept.

I AM directed by the Governor General in Council to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a Despatch from the Honourable the Court of Directors, No. 9, dated the 1st June last, and of a correspondence which has taken place with the Government of Bengal on the subject of prolonging the term of industrial residence of emigrants in British Guiana and Trinidad before they shall be entitled to a free return passage, and to request that the will be pleased to issue instructions to the emigration agent and protector of emigrants at to the effect stated in my letter to the secretary to the Government of Bengal of this date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. PLOWDEN,
Off. Sec. Gov. of India.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Lieut.-Governor WALKER.

(No. 181.)

SIR, Downing Street, January 30, 1854.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with copy of one from Mr. Caird, reporting the progress he has made in the despatch of Coolies to the West Indies. 23d Jan. 1854.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Walker, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Enclosure in No. 2. Encl. in No. 2.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office, January 23, 1854.

SIR,

WE beg to enclose, for the information of the Duke of Newcastle, the copy of a letter which we have received from Mr. Caird, who entertained some doubt whether he will be able to despatch the full complement of Coolies to the West Indies during the present season, as labourers are not abundant, and many have declined emigrating for the period recently sanctioned of ten years. 5th Dec. 1853.

2. We would suggest that Mr. Caird's letter should be communicated to the Governors of British Guiana and Trinidad.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esquire, &c. &c. (Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH. FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 2. Sub-Encl. to Encl. in No. 2.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta, December 5, 1853.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th September last, respecting the number of emigrants required for Trinidad during the current season, I have the honour to state, for the Board's information, my having taken up the ship "True Britain," to convey about 300 labourers, and that I hope to be able to despatch her about the 15th instant.

2. I cannot say at present the exact number altogether I may be able to procure this year for the West India colonies, as efficient labourers, with their families, are not very abundant just now, besides which, the new arrangements by which they are required to remain ten years instead of five has in some measure been the cause of many declining to go for the extended period. I trust, however, that the number will not fall far short, if it does at all, of that ordered for both colonies.

3. The labourers whom I have selected this year for the West Indies will, I hope, be found, on the whole, superior even to those who have gone from this in previous years, no trouble having been spared in choosing such emigrants as I thought would prove the most useful; and I trust, moreover, in case of any of the shipments of this season arriving in indifferent condition, the cause will not be attributed to bad selection in Calcutta.

4. I have not been successful in obtaining many old emigrants who have been before in Trinidad and Demerara, but I have sent several who came back this year from Jamaica, who are fine healthy robust men, and who will now, I think, make the West Indies their home.

I have, &c.

To S. Walcott, Esquire, &c. &c. (Signed) T. CAIRD, Emigration Agent

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No. 3. No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Lieut.-Governor WALKER.

(No. 183.)

SIR, Downing Street, February 2, 1854.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with copy of one from Mr. White, dated the 25th November last, from which it appears that up to that 23d Jan. 1854.

BRITISH GUIANA.

date he had been unable to procure shipping for the conveyance of Chinese emigrants to the West Indies.

I request that you will inform me, at as early a period as you can, what are the wishes of the local authorities of British Guiana on the subject of the introduction of immigrants during the season of 1854–5, and especially as regards the maximum rate per head up to which the Land and Emigration Commissioners may be authorized to go in their engagements for shipping.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Walker, &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Encl. in No. 3.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
January 23, 1854.

SIR,

25th Nov.

1. WE enclose the copy of a letter which we have received from Mr. White, from which it appears that he has not yet been able to procure shipping for the Chinese immigration.

16th Sept. 1853.

2. His instructions, of which we annex a copy, were, that the cost of collection and despatch "should not much exceed 100 dollars," excepting in the case of emigrants being prevailed upon to take their wives. Acting rather rigidly on these directions, and calculating the local expenses at $25 (which is, however, exclusive of the gratuities to cooks, headmen, and interpreters), he has not thought himself at liberty, without further instructions, to offer more than $75 or $76 per adult for conveyance. It is scarcely possible that any further instructions can reach China in time to affect this year's emigration; but we have authorized him to incur any expenses in sending out two or three ships which would not raise the cost above $110 or $115 a head.

3. But it would be very satisfactory if the colonists themselves, who must know what it is worth while to pay for their labourers, would fix a maximum rate of expense; and we would suggest that the Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence in British Guiana and Jamaica should be requested to do so, with a view to the operations of the ensuing season of 1854–1855. It must, however, be remembered, in fixing this maximum, that freights have increased enormously since the cost of conveyance was first estimated at $100 a head.

4. Our own first advertisements for shipping must be put out in March, before it is likely that the opinion of the Immigration Commissioners can reach us; but that opinion might serve as a guide for our subsequent proceedings, as well as for those for Mr. White.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esquire, &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sub-Encl. 1 to Encl. in No. 3.

Sub-Enclosure 1 to Enclosure in No. 3.

SIR,

Canton, November 25, 1853.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that I arrived at Hong Kong on the 11th instant, and after waiting there a few days I went to Macao, and thence came on to Canton, in order to make inquiries and if possible arrangements for the supply of any shipping that might be at Whampoa available for emigration.

2. I regret to state that not a single vessel can be obtained at present; and I am informed by the large mercantile houses that very little shipping is expected this season; not more than will be sufficient for the conveyance of teas and silks to England and the United States, and for the ordinary export trade from China to other places.

3. This scarcity of shipping arises partly in consequence of the disturbed state of the country, which has prevented the usual shipments of cotton from Bombay, and principally because the ships from California and Australia have gone to the guano islands off the coast of Peru, instead of coming on here, as they have done hitherto. By a late price current from California, I find that upwards of 102,000 tons of shipping had cleared out for these islands, and I am informed that by the last advices from thence upwards of 200 vessels were waiting to be loaded. In addition to this, so many disasters and mutinies and murders occurred last season on board of vessels engaged in the Cuban and Peruvian emigration, that respectable houses are unwilling to recommend the emigration service to the captains of ships consigned to their care, if it be possible to obtain any other employment.

4. The emigration to Cuba and Peru is likely to be carried on this season very much in the same manner as last season, restricted only by the scarcity of shipping. The same agents are employed. Two small Spanish vessels have been already despatched from Macao; another is in course of being loaded; and the "Emigrant" (whose voyage with emigrants to Demerara was abandoned last April) is being fitted and prepared for the service. As these vessels have been purchased by Mr. Jorgé expressly for emigration,

and as he has gone to some considerable expense in establishing a depôt, it is evident that the emigration to Cuba is considered as likely to be steady and permanent. One of my principal objects in going to Macao was to visit this depôt, but I could not gain access to it, and otherwise all the proceedings were so mystified that I could get little or no information.

5. There is also an agent here on behalf of the Panama Railway Company. Mr. Comstock is agent for Howell and Aspinwall of New York, and having made previous arrangements for vessels to carry a portion of the number required, there is no doubt that he will succeed in his object. There are now 700 poople at Namoa waiting for vessels, and the "Sea Witch," a large American clipper, is daily expected for their conveyance.

6. At first I offered $60 for every emigrant landed in the West Indies. To-day I have increased the offer to $70, but it has been refused as better terms have been offered for California. I shall go to the extent of $75 or $76, beyond which I do not feel authorized to go without further instructions. The local expenses will not be less than $25. The offer I have made is for a small vessel (460 tons) recently returned from Peru, whither she carried about 320 emigrants.

7. The emigration cannot be considered as well established at Hong Kong without having a well-organized depôt. But this involves the outlay of a considerable sum of money, which I do not feel authorized to incur without the sanction of the Commissioners, and there is so little prospect of obtaining vessels this season that I am almost loath to recommend it. I will endeavour to procure for the next mail an estimate of the expense. From the peculiar circumstances of Hong Kong, and also the peculiar character of the Chinese, there will be so many difficulties in the way of having a depôt on shore, that I recommend having one afloat, as offering many facilities and advantages not procurable on shore. Few or no restrictions will be required. The people will be better attended to, and will become in some degree accustomed to shipboard before they embark on the voyage.

An old hulk will be best adapted for this purpose, and may be obtained in Hong Kong by purchase.

8. The interpreter engaged for Trinidad is still here, and I am really at a loss what to do with him. I shall send him by the first vessel that leaves for Demerara.

9. There is no chance of obtaining female emigrants (except by purchase, direct or indirect), until the parties in the West Indies communicate to their friends here a favourable account of the country. This will do more than anything in the power of the agent, and will also give a very favourable impulse to emigration.

10. I propose to draw upon the Commissioners by the next mail for about 500*l.*, so as to have a small sum on hand for any expenses of detail connected with emigration that may occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES T. WHITE.

S. Walcott, Esq.,
&c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure 2 to Enclosure in No. 3.

Sub-Encl. 2 to Encl. in No. 3.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
8, Park Street, Westminster, September 16, 1853.

SIR,

1. I AM directed by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to inform you that the Duke of Newcastle has authorized them to re-appoint you to the office of Government Emigration agent for the West Indies in Hong Kong.

2. In conveying to you this re-appointment, little need be added to the instructions which were addressed to you on the 23d October last. It may, however, be useful to repeat them, with such modifications as have been requisite.

8. Your salary will be at the rate of 1,500*l.* per annum. The Commissioners hope to receive instructions shortly as to the date of its commencement.

4. You are aware that as the service to which you are appointed is of doubtful duration, the appointment is not of a permanent nature, or such as to give rise to a claim for compensation for loss of office. The Commissioners understand, however, that you will be prepared to give your services to Government until the number of emigrants now required for Jamaica and British Guiana (being 2,000 for the former and 1,500 for the latter colony) shall have been despatched.

5. Your duties will be to collect and despatch as speedily as possible as well these emigrants as any others who may be required for the West India colonies during your period of service, taking care, however, that none are despatched during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon. The colony of Trinidad has asked for 300 emigrants, but it is not probable that they will be required for this season. These emigrants are to be field labourers under the age of 40, with their families, and every effort should be made to despatch them from Hong Kong; but you will be at liberty to set on foot emigration from Amoy, if such a step should be found indispensable, and if there should be no reason to apprehend any abuses or disturbances there, or any collision with the Chinese at that port.

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7. The cost of collection and despatch of the emigrants (exclusive of the advances of wages, to be repaid in the colony,) should not much exceed $100 per adult, unless you should find it practicable to prevail on any of the emigrants to take out wives with them. You are fully aware both of the great importance of securing this object and of the caution which is necessary in its accomplishment.

8. The Commissioners are aware of the difficulty which exists in obtaining interpreters. You will not fail, however, to use every effort to obtain an adequate number of these persons, the want of which is already productive of much inconvenience. At least one should be sent, if possible, in every ship.

Appendix, Emigration Commissioners Annual Report for 1852, p. 205.

9. The contracts of service with the emigrants should be made as to British Guiana in accordance with the Ordinance No. 22. of 1851, and as to Jamaica in accordance with the 53d and following sections of the Immigration Ordinances of 1852, and in regard to both, on the terms, if possible, authorized by the minute of the Court of Policy dated 25th August 1851, of which I again enclose a copy. But, if necessary, you will consider yourself authorized to increase the advance there authorized, especially if by so doing you can commence a female emigration, and to offer wages amounting to $5 a head per month with food and lodging, or $ without such allowance.

House of Commons paper, No. 76, 1852, p. 352.

10. The "Epsom" has been engaged in this country to carry emigrants to Jamaica, and the "Rose Ellis" to carry emigrants to Demerara. You will perceive by the charter-parties of these ships (of which copies are enclosed), that they are to be placed at your disposal on the 14th February next. They will probably carry together about 500 adults.

11. You will be at liberty, subject to the above limits as to expense, to engage shipping for as large a number as you can despatch of the remaining 3,000 emigrants which the colonies require.

12. The Governor of Hong Kong has been instructed to pass an ordinance, in pursuance of the powers given him by the Act 16 & 17 Victoria, cap. 84., reducing the space required for Chinese emigrants, at all events during the north-east monsoon, during which alone your vessels will be despatched, from fifteen to twelve feet per adult. It is not likely that any children will be despatched by you; but it is well to point out that under the charter-parties of the "Epsom" and the "Rose Ellis" the age at which a passenger is considered an adult is fixed in conformity with the Indian law at ten years. And the Commissioners think it will be desirable in your own engagements with ship-owners to adhere to this limit.

13. Considering the risk of mortality which evidently exists in these ships, the presence of a competent European surgeon must be on no account dispensed with.

14. The freight of the ships which you may engage in China should be made payable by bills drawn by the Governors of British Guiana and Jamaica on this Board, at not less than thirty days' sight.

15. You will be at liberty to draw quarterly on this Board (also at thirty days' sight) for your salary, your travelling and other contingent expenses, and also for the money advanced or spent in the collection and despatch of emigrants, not exceeding 6*l.* a head on the number despatched, and for the cost of any provisions that may be required for any ship you may take up in China.

16. You will, however, transmit to the Board proper advices of these drafts, and furnish them with quarterly accounts, countersigned by the Governor of Hong Kong, who should also certify (as required by the British Guiana Ordinance already referred to) that as far as he knows the expenditure has been incurred in conducting the emigration of Chinese to the West Indies, and appears to have been just and reasonable.

17. Finally, I am to repeat the intimation which the Commissioners were formerly directed to transmit to you, that Her Majesty's Government have undertaken to authorize the expenditure of public money, and the employment of public agency, in promoting emigration from China, under the impression that the law of the Chinese empire against the emigration of its subjects, which is said to have once existed, has fallen into desuetude; but that if the fact should prove to be otherwise, and if the Chinese government or public authorities should insist upon that law as a law having present force and effect, and should consequently oppose the emigrants, it will be your duty at once to desist from any operation within the territory of China (if any shall have been there carried on by you, or by any person acting under your authority and direction,) which may involve a contravention of the law.

I have, &c..
(Signed) S. WALCOTT,
Secretary.

James T. White, Esq.
&c. &c.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 4.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 10, 1854.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 16th January last, No. 175,* informing Mr. Walker of the modifications which, after consultation with the Court of East India Directors, Her Majesty's Government were prepared to sanction in the laws regulating Coolie immigration, I transmit to you herewith, for your information, a draft in which I have caused these modifications to be embodied in the form and language of legal enactments, in order that they may be more immediately available for use.

* Page 1.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Encl. in No. 4.

Enclosure in No. 4.

DRAFT IMMIGRATION ACT.

Interpretation clause.

IN the construction of this [Act] the following words and expressions shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them, if not inconsistent with the context or subject matter; that is to say, words importing one number or one gender, shall mean respectively both numbers and all genders; the expression "her Majesty" shall mean her Majesty, her heirs and successors; the word "Governor" shall mean any person who for the time being shall be in the lawful administration of the government of this colony; the expression "immigration agent" shall include any person appointed by the Governor to act as immigration agent; the word "immigrant" shall mean all immigrants who may hereafter be introduced in this colony at the expense of this colony, or for whose introduction, although the same may be under private contract, the colony may hereafter pay bounty; the expression "Indian immigrant" shall mean any immigrant who shall have been introduced from the British possessions in the East Indies; the word "indenture" shall include all contracts of service declared to be valid by this Act; the expression "indentured immigrant" shall mean any immigrant under such indenture who shall not have completed his industrial residence; and the word "employer" shall mean the proprietor or manager or other person having the direction of or the chief authority upon any estate, plantation, farm, or establishment on which any immigrant shall be employed.

Governor to appoint immigration agent.

2. The Governor may appoint a fit and proper person, resident in this colony, to be immigration agent, and pay him quarterly a salary at the rate of *l.* per annum, and may from time to time remove such immigration agent, and appoint any other fit and proper person in his place.

Governor to proclaim bounties.

3. The Governor may from time to time, by proclamation, name the ports or places from which immigration on bounty into this colony shall be permitted, and the rates of bounty payable on the immigrants, and the conditions under which such immigration may be carried on.

Contracts for three years when to be made out of colony.

4. If any labourer arriving in this colony from Madeira, the Azores, the Canaries, or the Cape de Verd Islands, or from any part of Europe, or of the West Indies, or of the United States, or of the British provinces of North America, or from any port or place from which immigration on bounty shall have been permitted by such proclamation as aforesaid, shall before his arrival have contracted with any person to perform service in this colony, such contract shall, when approved and countersigned by the immigration agent, and subject to such alterations as the said agent may, with consent of the parties, have made therein, be valid in this colony for the full period named in such contracts, not exceeding three years; provided that, except as herein-after mentioned, no such contract shall be so approved and countersigned unless it shall have been signed with the names or marks of the contracting parties, and attested by some notary public or British consul, or by some other person approved by or acting under authority of Her Majesty's Government, who shall declare that the parties entered into it voluntarily, and with a full understanding of its meaning; nor unless the immigration agent shall be satisfied that the immigration has been carried on in accordance with all existing regulations of the Imperial or Colonial Government.

5. If the immigration agent shall not be so satisfied, or shall find the contract not to be so signed and attested as aforesaid, he shall report the same to the Governor, who may, if he shall think fit, notwithstanding such report, direct the said immigration agent to approve and countersign such contract in manner aforesaid.

Immigration agent to keep register of immigrants.

6. The immigration agent shall keep a register [a register for separate classes] of immigrants, and shall insert therein the names of all immigrants arriving in the colony, and shall number each of such immigrants [or classes of immigrants] by a particular number, commencing with the number one, and proceeding by regular numerical progression; and

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shall distinguish therein, under different heads, the number, name, age, sex, and country of every such immigrant, and the time when, the place from which, and the vessel in which such immigrant shall have arrived, and the cost of the passage of such immigrant, and whether such immigrant is or is not entitled to a return passage, and the name of the employer or other person at whose expense such labourer shall have been introduced, and of the employer to whom he may be indentured on his arrival, and of the amount of moneys, if any, which may have been advanced to such immigrant previous to his arrival in the colony, and which is to be repaid by him out of his wages in the colony.

Immigration agent to maintain immigrants on their arrival.

7. If any immigrants shall not on their arrival be immediately provided with employment, it shall be the duty of the immigration agent, and he is hereby authorized, to provide them with food and lodging at the expense of the colony, until the means of earning their own subsistence can be procured for them.

Immigration agent when to assign immigrants for three years.

8. In case any immigrant shall, before embarkation, have consented to enter in the colony into a contract of service with any employer, whom the immigration agent may, on his arrival, select, for a period not exceeding three years, (such consent being shown either by certificate of the Government emigration agent at the port of embarkation, or by an agreement signed by the immigrant, and witnessed by such notary, consul, or other officer as aforesaid,) the immigration agent may assign such immigrant to any employer whom he may think fit, for such period as aforesaid. Provided always, that in making such assignment it shall not be lawful for the immigration agent to separate husbands from wives, nor children under the age of fifteen years from their parents or natural protectors. Provided also, that no such assignment shall take effect until the employer and the immigrant (or the immigration agent on his behalf) shall have executed an indenture in the form annexed (Schedule A.), or in such other form as may be approved by the Governor, nor until such employer shall have paid on such indenture the fee herein-after provided.

Immigration agent may inspect estates, and require and make returns.

9. The immigration agent may at any time enter upon any estate where any immigrant shall be employed, and may inspect the state and condition of such immigrants, and, if requisite, require a muster of such immigrants, or any of them, as may then be on the said estate, and shall four times at the least in every year visit and inspect every plantation or place whereon any such immigrant shall be employed, and shall require from the employer of such immigrants a quarterly return of the number of such immigrants, together with the date and cause (as far as the same may be known) of all deaths, and the number of births of the children of such immigrants, and the names of all immigrants who may have left the estate during the quarter; and the immigration agent shall insert all such particulars in the register of immigrants heretofore required to be kept by him, and shall at the end of every year make an abstract of the numbers, increase and decrease, of all such immigrants, which abstract shall be laid before the legislature of this colony.

Penalty on obstructing immigration agent.

10. Every employer of immigrants who shall omit to make the quarterly return herein-before required, and every person who shall by any act or omission obstruct the immigration agent in entering upon any plantation where he may reasonably suppose any immigrant to be employed, or in inquiring into the state and condition of any immigrant, shall, on conviction thereof by summary process before any two or more justices of the peace, forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding for every such offence as the convicting justices shall direct.

Immigration agent may adjudicate respecting immigrants and cancel indentures on breach of contract, &c.

11. The immigration agent may hear, examine, and adjudicate upon any dispute or claim between such immigrants, or (during the continuance of any such indenture as aforesaid) between such immigrants and their employers, and shall possess and exercise in respect of any matter affecting any immigrant all powers given by any law of this colony to any stipendiary (or police) magistrate, and in case any such immigrant shall have been ill used by his employer, or in case of neglect of duty or breach of contract on the part of such immigrant or employer, may, by notice in the Government Gazette, cancel the indenture of such immigrant.

Immigration agent may cancel indentures for nonpayment of fees.

12. The immigration agent may also by such notice cancel the indenture of any immigrant in respect of whom any fee or other sum of money payable by his employer under this [Act] shall remain unpaid for a period of one month after it shall have become due.

Governor may cancel indentures.

13. The Governor may by such notice cancel the indenture of any immigtant, if the immigration agent shall report that the accommodation provided for such immigrant is bad or insufficient, or if on any other ground he shall consider it requisite.

Immigration agent may re-indenture for unexpired period of indenture.

14. Any immigrant whose indenture shall have been cancelled under any of the above provisions may be re-indentured to some other employer, without his consent, by the immigration agent, for any period not exceeding the then unexpired period of such indenture.

Certificate of industrial residence when issuable after three years.

15 When the bounty or passage money paid by the colony in respect of any immigrant shall not have exceeded 9*l*., and the Government shall not be bound to furnish any return passage, such immigrant shall be entitled, after having resided three years in the colony, to demand from the immigration agent a certificate of industrial residence, unless it shall be recorded in the office of the said immigration agent, or shall otherwise appear to his satisfaction, that such immigrant has deserted or absented himself from service for periods amounting together in the three years to more than three months; and in this case such immigrant shall not be entitled to the said certificate until he shall have further served under indenture for the period of such absence or desertion.

16. It shall be competent to the immigration agent to assign any Chinese immigrant, on his arrival, for a period not exceeding five years, according to the terms of any contract into which he shall have entered before his arrival in the colony; provided that at the expiration of the first and every other year of such period the immigrant may require the said agent to transfer him to some other employer for the remainder of the said period, or, on repayment of all advances made to him before his arrival in the colony, and then remaining unpaid, and of 3*l.* per annum for every year wanting to complete five years' residence in the colony, to release him absolutely from his indentures, and give him a certificate of industrial residence; provided also, that every such assignment and transfer as aforesaid shall be made by indenture as near as may be in the form contained in Schedule A., or such other form as may be approved by the Governor; and such transfer shall be determinable at the request of the immigrant in like manner as the original assignment.

Chinese immigrants to be indentured for five years; their indentures determinable at close of each year.

17. Any Indian immigrant who on his arrival shall have been assigned by such indenture as aforesaid for three years may, within one month after the expiration of that period, and on payment of 5*l.*, demand a certificate of industrial residence, or he may, within such period as may be prescribed by the Governor before the expiration of such three years, signify to the immigration agent his desire to be re-indentured to any other employer whom he may select for a period of one, two, or three years from the determination of his existing indenture, and the immigration agent shall re-indenture him accordingly; and if the immigrant shall fail to make such payment, or to require such re-indenture, his original indenture shall be deemed to be extended for one year.

Indian immigrants, to have option of re-indenture, renewal, or commutation, at end of third year,

18. Any Indian immigrant whose original indentures shall have been so extended, or who shall have been re-indentured for a period of one year, may, within one month after the expiration of that period, on payment of 2*l.* 10*s.* demand a certificate of industrial residence, or may require such re-indenture as aforesaid; and if he shall fail to make such payment, or to require such re-indenture, his original indenture shall be deemed to be extended for one year.

and of fourth year.

19. Any Chinese or Indian emigrant who shall have served five years in the colony under indenture may demand a certificate of industrial residence; provided that in case of immigrants under twelve years of age residence in the colony shall for the purpose of computing such industrial residence be equivalent to residence under indenture.

Certificate of industrial residence issuable to Chinese or Indian immigrants after five years' indentured service.

20. Every immigrant who shall have received or shall be entitled to such certificate shall be at liberty to abandon service, and may demand from the immigration agent a passport, which, as well as the said certificate, shall be signed by the immigration agent, and given gratis.

Effect of such certificate.

21. No immigrant shall depart from the colony without such passport; and every master or other person in charge of any vessel who shall knowingly receive or harbour on board of such vessel any immigrant who shall not have duly obtained such passport, with the intention of carrying him out of this colony, or any person who shall aid or abet the departure of any such immigrant, shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding *l.* for each and every such immigrant whom he shall have so received, harboured, aided, or abetted.

Immigrants not to leave colony without passport.
Penalty on masters of vessels.

22. Any immigrant who shall have resided three years in the colony shall be presumed, in the absence of proof to the contrary, to have served under indenture for that period; but the nonproduction of a certificate of industrial residence shall be primâ facie evidence that he has not served under indenture for a longer period.

Presumption of industrial residence.

23. Every Indian immigrant shall on production of his passport be entitled, ten years after his arrival, to a back passage, at the expense of the colony, to that part in India from which he emigrated.

Indian immigrants to have back passages after ten years' residence.

24. The Governor may authorize the immigration agent to grant a certificate of exemption from industrial residence to any immigrant who, from sickness, accident, or other cause, shall appear to him incapable of labour, and may send any such Indian immigrant back, at the expense of the colony, to the port in India from which he emigrated.

Governor to grant certificates of exemption and back passages to disabled Indians.

25. The Governor may, by notice in the Government Gazette, make regulations respecting the lodging, medicine, medical care, food, and clothing to be provided for immigrants, and respecting any other matters necessary for carrying the Act into effect.

Governor to make regulations.

26. Every indentured immigrant, in the absence of any express agreement to the contrary, and except in case of illness, shall be bound to work upon or in the service of the plantation mentioned in his indenture for nine hours of each day, Sundays, Good Friday, New Year's Day, and Christmas Day only excepted; provided always, that during his absence on account of illness every such immigrant shall, in the absence of any express agreement to the contrary, receive, instead of wages, such allowances as the state of his health may require, or as may be prescribed by any regulation issued or to be issued by the Governor.

Hours of work.
Illness.

27. Every indentured immigrant who during the continuance of his indenture shall without lawful excuse absent himself from his work shall forfeit his claim to all wages and allowances for the time during which he shall so absent himself, and on conviction thereof, before any justice of the peace, shall for every such offence be imprisoned in the royal gaol or nearest authorized place of confinement, with hard labour, for such term not exceeding 14 days as such justice shall direct.

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28. If the employer of any indentured immigrants shall die, or if the plantation mentioned in the indenture of such immigrant shall be alienated or demised, the person who shall become entitled to such plantation shall be entitled to the services of such immigrant during the residue of the term of his indenture; provided always, that for the purpose of deciding such disputes as are herein-before mentioned between an immigrant and his employer the person who is actually in possession of such plantation shall be deemed to be entitled thereto; but the services of any indentured immigrant may be transferred, with his consent, to any other plantation belonging to the same employer, provided that a memorandum of such transfer shall be endorsed on his indenture, and signed by the immigration agent.

29. It shall be lawful for the immigration agent, or any police constable, to stop, without a warrant, any African, Indian, or Chinese immigrant, not being on the plantation in respect of which his services may be due, and also for the owner or occupier of any land or house to stop, without a warrant, any such immigrant found upon or about such land or house; and if such immigrant, being so required, shall fail to produce such certificate of exemption or of industrial residence as are herein-before mentioned, or a written ticket of leave signed by his employer, to take such immigrant forthwith before some neighbouring justice of the peace, and such justice shall forthwith inquire into the case; and unless he shall be satisfied that such immigrant has completed such residence or obtained such exemption as aforesaid, or that he is absent from the plantation in respect of which his services shall be due with the leave of his employer, shall make order for his immediate committal, with or without hard labour, to such place of confinement as aforesaid, for a term not exceeding 14 days.

Where immigrant may be apprehended if two miles from plantation.

30. It shall be lawful for the employer of any indentured immigrant, or for any servant of such employer, or for any police constable, to apprehend without warrant any such immigrant who may be found during the ordinary hours of work at a distance of more than two miles from the plantation in respect of which his services shall be due, without a written ticket of leave signed by his employer, and to cause such immigrant to be taken back to such plantation.

False pretences by immigrants.

31. Any immigrant who shall falsely and fraudulently pretend that he has completed his industrial residence, or who shall use, give, or lend any certificate or passport for any fraudulent purpose, or who shall wilfully counterfeit or alter any such certificate or passport, shall, on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace, be imprisoned in such place of confinement as aforesaid, with hard labour, for such term not exceeding three calendar months as the convicting justice shall direct.

Harbouring or employing deserters, how punishable.

32. Any person who shall knowingly harbour or receive into his employment any immigrant then under indenture to any other person shall, on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace, forfeit and pay to Her Majesty such sum, not exceeding as to such justice shall seem fit, and shall pay to the employer the sum of for each day during which such immigrant shall have been so harboured or employed. Complaint of such harbouring or employment may be made by the immigration agent, or by the employer of such immigrant, at any time within 12 calendar months after the offence shall have been committed.

Fees.

33. The following fees shall be paid to the immigration agent by the employer of every immigrant during the period of his industrial residence, viz., on the execution of any indenture, 2*l.*; at the commencement of the second and every subsequent year of service under such indenture, or any extension thereof, 1*l.*; and such fees shall be paid by the immigration agent to the colonial treasury, and shall be applied

Recovery of advances.

34. The employer of any indentured immigrant shall pay to the immigration agent, by monthly instalments of one dollar each, the amount mentioned in such indenture as advanced to such immigrant previous to his embarkation, and shall be entitled to deduct the same by [weekly or monthly] instalments from the wages of such immigrant; and the monies so paid to the immigration agent shall be paid by him to the colonial treasurer for the benefit of the person by whom the advances shall have been made.

35. All monies payable to the immigration agent in respect of any immigrant under the provisions of this [Act] shall be a first charge on the plantation on which such immigrant shall have been indentured. All penalties and forfeitures imposed by this Act may be sued for and recovered by the immigration agent.

36. This ordinance shall take effect on the of next.

SCHEDULE A.

This indenture, made the day of 185 , between *A.B.*, immigrant labourer No. , [*or C.D.* immigration agent of this colony, on behalf of *A.B.*, &c.] of the one part, and *E.F.* of in the colony of of the other part, witnesseth, that in virtue of ordinance No. of 185 , and in consideration of the covenants on the part of the said *E.F.* herein-after contained, he the said *A.B.* doth hereby bind himself to the said *E.F.* for the term of years, to be computed from the date hereof, and doth hereby covenant with the said *E.F.*, his heirs and assigns, that he the said *A.B.* will, during the said term or the continuance of these presents, truly and faithfully serve the said *E.F.*, his heirs and assigns, as a labourer on Plantation according to the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers

in this colony; and the said *E.F.* doth hereby covenant with the said *A.B.* that he the said *E.F.* will, during the said term or the continuance of these presents, provide the said *A.B.* with suitable and sufficient lodging, medicine, and medical attendance [(*a*) and during three months from the date of this indenture with food and clothing, according to the annexed scale, and such medicine, medical attendance, food, and lodging shall be in conformity] with the laws or regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony, and also will pay wages to the said *A.B.* [(*b*) during the next three months at the rate of per diem, and after the expiration of three months] at the same rate which may be at the time paid to the labourers not under a written agreement, working on said plantation, according to the quantity of work performed, being at the rate of not less than per , subject nevertheless to deductions at the following rate per ["week" or "month," *as the case may be,*] viz.: BRITISH GUIANA.

Medical attendance - - - - - -		
Lodging - - - - - -		
Repayment of advances, amounting in all to - -		
Total deductions per week - -		

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands,

A.B. [*or C.D.*]
E.F.

N.B.—The passages between brackets numbered (*a*) and (*b*) may be omitted if the immigration agent shall see fit. If they are inserted the immigration agent must add a scale of food.

No. 5. No. 5.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Duke of Newcastle to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 5.)

Sir, Downing Street, March 16, 1854.

1. I have to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Walker's Despatch of the 9th December last, No. 127, transmitting a statement of the financial accountant respecting the guaranteed loan fund.

2. I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, showing the state of the funds at their disposal for the immigration of 1854-5, and pointing out the information required to enable Her Majesty's Government to give instructions for the continuance of immigration into British Guiana. 9th March 1854.

3. I have to express my concurrence in the views and suggestions of the Commissioners, and I have to instruct you to guide yourself by their report accordingly.

4. I think that Mr. Walker will probably before the receipt of this Despatch have made known to me, in compliance with the instructions contained in my Despatch of the 2d ultimo, No. 183,* the wishes of the local authorities as regards the immigration for 1854–5, and he will, no doubt, at the same time, have reported from what sources it is proposed that the immigration should be defrayed; but should this not be the case you will see the necessity, as pointed out by the Commissioners, of an early report on the subject. * Page 9.

5. I transmit to you the accounts of the Bank of England in respect of the guaranteed loan previous to July 1852, referred to in the 5th paragraph of the Commissioners' letter; and I have requested the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to cause the Bank accounts for the half year ending 31st December last to be supplied.

6. I request that you will inform the financial accountant that I am glad to have it in my power to acknowledge the clear and satisfactory manner in which he has prepared and sent home his accounts.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Encl. in No. 5.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
March 9, 1854.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 17th of January last, which inclosed a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of British Guiana, and a very clear statement of the financial accountant respecting the guaranteed loan fund, we have to report on the state of that fund with regard to future immigration.

2. But before proceeding to this general question we should notice two or three points to which the financial accountant draws special attention.

3. He observes, first, that it is desirable that the expenses of Mr. Caird's visit to the West Indies and those of Mr. White's agency should be finally apportioned between British Guiana and Trinidad, and that detailed accounts of the Indian expenses should be laid before the colonial authorities. On these points we have to state, that in pursuance of the suggestions made in our letter of the 10th December 1852, and approved by your letter of the 17th December 1852, we have delayed any final apportionment of the Indian expenses of Cooly emigration till the expiration of three years from its recommencement, dividing them in the meanwhile in a ratio which seemed likely to be not very far from the ultimate and more accurate division. And while the bulk of these divisible expenses are thus in abeyance, we have thought it would be most convenient to defer the transmission to the colony of the Indian accounts, and the apportionment of other expenses which were either of a cognate kind or divisible on a similar principle.

4. As the present season will close the three years on which the apportionment is to be made, we shall be in a position, soon after the end of the current half year, to dispose of all these questions together. Under these circumstances we presume the colonial authorities would not press our acting on the suggestion of the financial accountant before that period arrives.

5. Next, the financial accountant requests to be furnished with the accounts of the Bank of England in respect to the guaranteed loan previous to July 1852. We presume that these will be forwarded accordingly.

6. Lastly, he points out that on the 1st of July the sum of 56,070*l.* remained in the Bank to the credit of the colony, yielding no interest. This is a matter of which we have no knowledge, except that we see by the Bank accounts that this balance arises from a payment of 87,701*l.* made on the 18th of February 1853 by the Atlas Insurance Company, and that it must have been reduced to at most 11,070*l.* by a payment of 45,000*l.* made to this Board before the end of July.

7. We now proceed to examine the general state of this fund with reference to our future proceedings.

8. The financial accountant rightly calculates the balance available for immigration purposes at the beginning of July last at about 60,300*l.* Since that time we have paid—

	£
To the Governor's bills - - - -	24,000
Expenses of Indian emigration for 1852–53 - -	8,300
In all - -	32,300

leaving about 28,000*l.* available for this year's immigration. To this is to be added 50,000*l.* still to be raised, making in all 78,000*l.*

9. But supposing Mr. Caird sends out all the Coolies ordered, and Mr. White engages one ship in China besides that engaged in England, the expenses of 1853–54 may be roughly stated at—

	£
2,500 Coolies (15*l.* per adult) - - - -	37,000
500 Chinese (22*l.* per adult) - - -	11,000
Return Coolies by "Sandford" - - - -	4,000
Bills received from Lieut.-Governor during next two months, and other contingencies - - - -	6,000
In all - -	58,000

The sum, therefore, applicable to the operations of this Board for 1854–55, provided the Lieutenant-Governor were immediately directed to desist from drawing any further bills upon us on any other account than Coolie or Chinese Immigration, would be about (78,000*l.*—58,000*l.*) 20,000*l.*, which would not be much more than sufficient, at the present rates of freight, to cover Mr. White's expenses, and send out two shiploads of Chinese. This amount, however, will be increased if the number of Chinese or Coolies sent out during the present season prove short of the above number, and, on the contrary, still further reduced, unless provision is made from other sources for the ship which it will be necessary to engage in May in order to take Coolies back to India in July next. Any sums necessary for immigration beyond the amount which may thus turn out available must be provided from the general revenue.

BRITISH GUIANA.

10. As this statement embraces no facts which are not in substance known to the Colonial Government, and as all the proceedings of the colonists show an intention to carry on both Chinese and Coolie emigration on a large scale, at least during the ensuing season, we may anticipate the early receipt from the colony of such a financial statement as may enable us to advertise for shipping, which should be done, as regards the Chinese emigration, in April and May, and as regards Coolie emigration, in May and June; but to prevent the possibility of embarrassment we think it best to bring the matter at once before the Secretary of State, both to obtain instructions for our proceedings and to ensure that the matter is not lost sight of by the colonial authorities.

11. It is evident that, in default of further communications from the colony, and assuming that the British Government would not make itself responsible for engagements made in respect of West Indian immigration, it would be necessary, either to confine our operations within the sum of 20,000*l.*, or whatever other sum may as the time approaches be found available in our own hands, or to make the freights of any ships that we may take up payable not by this Board, but by the Colonial Government. We do not feel at liberty to recommend the latter course, as we do not know how far the Duke of Newcastle would consider himself at liberty thus to bind the general revenue of British Guiana, nor how far that revenue may be depended on with certainty for meeting the obligations thus contracted. And, indeed, it is evidently inconvenient that this Board, which in such contracts is popularly considered to represent the British Government, should incur liabilities which are not either payable by the British Treasury or covered by funds in our hands or within our reach. We do not, therefore, ourselves, see any alternative but that of limiting our engagements to the amount actually in our hands; nor will any material inconvenience arise from this course, as the earlier ships, if obtained in England, may be taken up for Jamaica, in respect of which colony ample funds are available.

12. We would submit, therefore, that if we are to enter into any engagement with respect to Chinese emigration, the Lieutenant-Governor should be instructed, if possible, by the next mail, to draw no more bills on this Board, except in respect of Chinese or Coolie immigration, that he should be informed that liabilities will probably be incurred in April or May in respect of Chinese immigration to the extent of the funds which may then turn out to be in our hands, but that no further liabilities will be incurred in England or authorized in India or China till provision shall be made to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State for their liquidation. What that provision should be is not a matter on which it is within our province to offer any suggestion. But it is very desirable that it should be made at once, in order that no delay may take place in engaging the first ships of the season. Instructions to Messrs. Caird and White need not be sent out till June.

13. With regard to our immediate requirements, we calculate that the balance of 28,000*l.*, mentioned above as available for the emigration of 1853–54, may possibly be exhausted early in May, before which time it would be necessary to realize part of the 50,000*l.* which still remains to be raised on account of the British Guiana guaranteed loan fund. Before the end of August 30,000*l.* more may possibly be required.

14. We take this opportunity of enclosing, for transmission to the respective colonies, our accounts for the guaranteed loan funds of Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad for the half year ending 31st December 1853. We presume it will be thought proper also to obtain and forward the Bank accounts for the same period.

We are, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 6.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 17, 1854.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, transmitting copies of a correspondence with Mr. White on the subject of Chinese emigration to the West Indies, together with a copy of the answer returned to the Commissioners by my desire.

25th Feb. 1854.

17th March 1854.

I have, &c.

To Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
February 25, 1854.

Encl 1 in No. 6.
No. 2. 10th Dec.
No. 4. 26th Dec.
24th February.

SIR,

1. WE beg to enclose copies of two letters which we have received from Mr. White, with the answer which we have returned to those letters. It is not possible, however, that this answer can be received before the emigration has practically terminated.

2. It will be seen that little chance exists of chartering ships in China, but that Mr. White has authorized Messrs. Tait and Co. to send one or two vessels (if they can be procured) from Namoa; a step which we cannot refrain from regretting.

3. It appears to us that no better course can be adopted for commencing a healthy female emigration than that adopted by Mr. White; but we do not feel very sanguine of his immediate success.

4. We trust that next year, being at liberty to advertise for shipping at a far earlier period, we shall be able to secure a supply of European surgeons.

5. The emigration is as yet of so uncertain a kind that we could not recommend that the expense of constructing a depôt should be incurred; but we think it might be very advisable to obtain the opinion of some Government officer on the spot; and we would suggest that if the emigration proceeds the Governor should be instructed to direct the Surveyor-General or some other competent officer to place himself in communication with Mr. White on the subject, and report respecting the expediency of such a step; the expense which would be necessary; and on any means which Government might possess for facilitating the construction of a building adequate for the purpose.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sub-Encl. 1 to Encl. 1 in No. 6.

Sub-Enclosure 1 to Enclosure in No. 6.

(No. 2.)

SIR,

Hong Kong, December 10, 1853.

SINCE I had the honour of addressing you by last mail, several vessels have arrived, suitable for the emigration service, but they have all been taken up at rates very far exceeding those which I am authorized to give, and are principally under charter for California.

As an instance of the high rates of freight now current, I may mention that Mr. Comstock, agent on behalf of the Panama Railway Company (of whom I made mention in my last), offered, a few days ago, $70 for the conveyance of labourers to Panama, and to put 700 on board, the charterer finding water and fittings and every thing necessary. The vessel (the Wilhelmsburgh) registers 900 tons, and according to the English Passengers' Act could not carry more than 450 emigrants. But 700 passengers at $70 each is equivalent to 450 at $109, and this latter is the sum I would have had to offer in order to place matters on a par. In addition to the freight for the emigrants, the charterer engaged, if required, to furnish a cargo of guano from Peru for New York. The whole offer has, however, been declined, and the vessel is now under charter for California. This statement will show the Commissioners how little prospect there is of procuring shipping for the West Indies during the present season.

As it is possible that some stray vessels may call in at Amoy, without knowledge of the high freights current here, I have authorized Messrs. Tait and Co. to take them up on my account; and I annex copy of the letter I have addressed them on the subject. I effected this arrangement only on the condition required by them, that they should receive a commission for placing emigrants on board (from Namoa); and although this is contrary to my expressed wish, that the emigration should be conducted from Hong Kong, I thought it best to accede to it under present circumstances, for I see little prospect of getting vessels in Hong Kong, and if I had rejected the proposal made to me by Messrs. Tait and Co. I would lose the chance of any vessels that might arrive at Amoy, for they would unquestionably be taken up under a similar engagement for the Cuban emigration.

If emigration is to be carried on from this port continuously (or at least for a few years) and systematically, and in a manner creditable to the Government, it is absolutely necessary to have a depôt. Here emigrants may be collected, and be prepared for embarkation, so that no delay shall arise when the vessel is ready to receive them, and here they will be protected from the possibility of fraud on the part of the collecting agents. The present method of bringing them together two or three days before the vessel leaves, and then shipping them off without sufficient preparation or inquiry, leaves open the door for all manner of abuses, in spite of the best exertions of the emigration agent. But the establishment of a depôt, whether afloat or on shore, will be attended with some expense; and with the little prospect there is of obtaining shipping this season, I do not wish to incur any expense that may be avoided, without having the previous sanction of the Commissioners. A

hulk, such as would answer the purpose of a depôt afloat, will cost at present from 3,000*l.* to 4,000*l.* The town of Hong Kong, at the foot of an abrupt hill, offers few conveniences for building, and I have been unable to find any place but one suitable for the purposes of a depôt. This place comprises three lots of land (on which there are buildings, now in a nearly ruinous condition, as the parties to whom they belonged have allowed them to lapse to the Crown rather than pay a heavy ground rent), and is nearly three acres in extent, and situated on the shore of the bay. The Surveyor-General informs me that the three lots may be had for 300*l.* a year, but they cannot be made available for the purposes of a depôt until the Governor, who resides at present in a house adjoining one of these lots, shall have removed into the new Government House now in course of erection. The repairs to the old buildings, and the erection of the new ones that may be required, will, on a rough calculation, cost from 1,000*l.* to 1,500*l.* If emigration from China is likely to be carried on for a few years, I recommend the establishment of a depôt, afloat or on shore (the latter only as being the most economical); but if it is to be uncertain and desultory the expense of a depôt may be saved. And in this case the emigrants required may be obtained as well through the agency of a respectable mercantile house as by the instrumentality of a Government agent.

No emigration from China will be safe or satisfactory until some of those who have left return with favourable accounts of the West Indies, and till this takes place the respectable Chinese will continue to regard this emigration with suspicion and distrust. If the accounts be favourable, the emigration may become to a great extent self-supporting, for thousands will be eager to emigrate, and will gladly undertake to pay at least a portion of the passage money, as soon as their confidence has been secured.

I have already stated frequently that I see no prospect of procuring women, except by purchase, direct or indirect. If the Government will authorize me to advance money for this purpose I have no doubt of success. Girls of respectable connexion may be obtained for about forty dollars of ten to fifteen years of age, and I propose to pay this amount to a few of the more respectable emigrants, and leave them to make their own arrangements, on condition of their marrying the women before the departure of the vessel. When favourable accounts are brought from the West Indies by returned Chinese emigrants, it may become unnecessary to resort to this method to procure women and children; but until that takes place, if my information be correct, there is no probability of obtaining women without purchase, for such is the universal custom of the country.

* * * * * * * * *

There is no prospect of obtaining a European surgeon; none can be obtained here; and the vessels from Australia, California, and India do not bring any. If I succeed in procuring vessels, I shall have to despatch them with Chinese surgeons instead; and if it be made imperative for the future that European surgeons must be employed, it will be necessary to make arrangements for this purpose in England. Upwards of 40,000 Chinese have left this for California without surgeons (except their own); and I am not aware that any epidemic has broken out, or that any untoward accident has occurred to mar the success of a single voyage. Almost everything depends on the captain, and the surgeons likely to be picked up here are men whose services would probably be of little or no value. The surgeon of the "Emigrant," who was engaged at a high salary for the voyage to Demerara, died of "delirium tremens" from sheer drunkenness a few days after the voyage had been abandoned.

As to emigration generally, I see no reason to doubt that any number of people may be obtained that the resources of the West India colonies can afford.

* * * * * * * * *

An extensive and increasing emigration is going forward to California. Numbers of Chinese return from there, and go back again, after having made here such purchases as they think likely to yield profit. Hardly a week passes without vessels arriving from and leaving for San Francisco, so that the intercourse is regular and well established. There are now in harbour two English vessels of considerable size, which have been purchased by Chinese expressly for this trade, and a line of packets has been lately established by a respectable firm, with vessels* advertised to sail at stated periods. The emigration to California may therefore be considered as thoroughly well established, and as likely to increase yearly, at least for some years to come.

As yet, little or nothing has taken place in emigration to Australia; but as a few Chinese have recently returned from there, and have brought with them a good deal of gold, it is expected that emigration will set in to Australia in the same manner as to California.†

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* One of these is the "Lord Warriston," a fine vessel, which the Commissioners may, perhaps, remember was tendered to them by Mr. Hamlin, a few days before I left London.

† Three vessels are now advertised for Port Philip and Sydney, and are intended to carry passengers.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The Peruvian consul at Canton has recently issued a notice "that the Peruvian "Government conceive it undesirable to encourage the importation of Chinese Coolies "into Peru, and will henceforth decline to enforce the observance of any contracts that "may be entered into between shippers and Coolies." This will in all probability check the shipment of labourers to that quarter.

The "Sea Witch" (American) is now in harbour, and proceeds shortly to Namoa, to take labourers for the Panama Railway. Her upper deck has been housed over from the mizen forward, so that she will carry nearly as many passengers on this deck as on her 'tween deck, and in all many more than would be permitted by the English Passengers' Act. The agent for the company has not been able to charter any vessels here, although he is authorized to give very high terms for the conveyance of labourers. The "Sea Witch" was chartered in New York, and was fitted out there for her present occupation.

I have drawn upon the Commissioners in favour of Messrs. Dent and Co. for 500*l.* sterling, so as to have some funds in hand for the payment of any disbursements that may be required. The bill is at thirty days', and under date 10th December.

I have, &c.

S. Walcott, Esq., Secretary, (Signed) JAMES T. WHITE.
Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.
&c. &c. &c.

DEAR SIRS, Hong Kong, December 9, 1853.

IF any vessels arrive at Amoy suitable for the emigration service, I shall feel obliged by your taking them up on my account, for the conveyance of 500 to 600 emigrants to British Guiana, and a similar number to Jamaica. The first vessel to go to Jamaica. The ship to provide wood, water, and the necessary fittings, and a European surgeon, if one can be obtained; and the amount to be paid must not exceed 14*l.* 10*s.* sterling, or $70, for every emigrant landed. I name this sum as the maximum, and trust you will be able to procure freight at lower rates.

You are aware of the stringent provisions of the English Passengers' Act; and I must urge you not to employ any vessel that is not unexceptionally sea-worthy, and in every way suited for the comfortable conveyance of emigrants. They must be carefully surveyed.

I wish these vessels to take emigrants from Namoa; and if you will inform me when a vessel has been chartered, I will, if possible, meet her at that place. I have arranged with your Mr. Tait as to the commission you will be entitled to charge for this service, and also as to the probable outlay for local charges, and for provision and clothing to the emigrants, amounting in the aggregate to $24, and if two months wages, or $8, be paid in advance, the total sum required per man will be $32, which sum I shall be prepared to advance as soon as I am informed that a vessel has been taken up for the service.

The provisions must be of the best quality, and the supply of water abundant; but on this and other points connected with the emigration I will write hereafter.

To obviate the inconvenience and dissatisfaction that appears to have arisen in the West Indies by deducting $1 a month from the wages of the emigrants, so as to refund to the colonies the $8 advanced here, I think it would be well, instead of having any reference to these $8 in the contract, merely to stipulate that for the first eight months after their arrival they will be entitled to receive as wages (exclusive of food, &c.) only $3 a month, after which they will be placed on the full allowance of $4. Interpreters are absolutely necessary.

I am, &c.

Messrs. Tait and Co., Amoy. (Signed) JAMES T. WHITE.
&c. &c.

I understand that no commission will be charged for chartering. I send a copy of some "papers relating to emigration," which will show the spirit in which the colonial authorities desire that this emigration should be carried on.

Sub-Enclosure 2 to Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

Sub-Encl. 2 to Encl. 1 in No. 6.

SIR, Hong Kong, December 26, 1853.

NOTHING of any interest connected with emigration has occurred since I had the honour of addressing you on the 10th instant.

2. Very few vessels have arrived, and these all under previous engagements, so that the rates of freight are fully as high as they were; and as there is a great deal of Chinese produce on hand waiting for shipment, it is probable that they will go even higher.

3. No vessels have been taken up here, either for Panama, Peru, or Cuba, but Mr. Jorgé has purchased another vessel (now at Manilla under the French flag) for the Cuban emigration.

4. As an indication of the high rates of freight now current, I may mention that a vessel being required for the conveyance to England of the invalids of the 59th regiment, tenders were called for in the usual form, but only one vessel was offered (the "Enterprize"), and the rate required 45*l.* per man. Last year the rate paid was 30*l.* This tender was rejected; but an arrangement has since been made, by which the rate per man is reduced to 40*l.*, the difference being made up, or nearly so, by the freight payable on stores that are to be sent home, and by other concessions.

5. Upwards of 800 Chinese have returned from California since the 10th instant. A passenger on board one of the vessels that brought 300 informs me that they appeared, all of them, to have plenty of money, and that they stated their intention of returning to California as soon as they had seen their friends and enjoyed the festivities of the new year. The return of Chinese under such favorable circumstances must naturally stimulate emigration to that quarter, and the communication is now so certain and so frequent that it cannot fail to become of considerable importance.

6. Subjoined is a memorandum furnished to me by Mr. Jorgé of the three vessels despatched by him at the close of the last emigration season. It is singular that the mortality was least on board of the vessel that was most crowded.

	Tons.	Coolies.	Died.
Sophia	240	250	17
Viaganté	—	300	51
Victoria	500	400	53
		950	121

The mortality on board of the Viaganté was caused by "scurvy," which broke out ninety days after leaving this; and he attributes it entirely to the negligence of the captain.

The mortality on board of the "Victoria" he attributes to her being despatched "too late in the season, about the end of March."

7. He has made arrangements for this season with parties residing it Aujer, and at the Cape of Good Hope and St. Helena, to furnish his vessels with whatever provisions or supplies may be required, and he makes it imperative upon the captains to call at Aujer for fresh vegetables and pigs, and at the Cape of Good Hope or at St. Helena, or at both, if necessary, for the same purpose, taking sheep at the Cape instead of pigs. These arrangements are good, and might be adopted with advantage in our West Indian emigration, for the various breaks in the voyage, and the frequent supply of fresh vegetables and water, must conduce to the health, comfort, and cheerfulness of the emigrants.

8. Difficulties, however, occur in spite of his precautions and care. By late advices from Singapore I learn, that the "Adamastor," of 400 tons, despatched by Mr. Jorgé for Cuba in last October, with upwards of 300 Coolies on board, had put into that port, the captain being compelled to this step under the threat of losing his life. The Coolies deserted the ship immediately after her arrival, and the voyage was necessarily abandoned.

9. Incidents such as this deter captains from embarking in the emigration service; and to show the general feeling that prevails on the subject, I annex the copy of a letter from the consignee of the "Jamestown," to whom I had made an offer for the conveyance of emigrants to Jamaica.

10. The proper season for emigration is passing away so rapidly that I have taken upon myself the responsibility of offering $80 for the passage of emigrants to the West Indies. This sum, payable on arrival, is equal to - - - £16 13 4

The provisions, clothing, and local charges will amount to about $25, which at the current high rates of exchange will not be less than - 6 6 8

Making in all - - - - 23 0 0

This is an amount beyond which the Commissioners would not, as I apprehend, authorize me to advance, nor would any such advance be sanctioned by the local governments.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES T. WHITE.

S. Walcott, Esq., Secretary,
Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

My dear Sir, Canton, December 10, 1853.

Informed through Captain Moore you are very desirous of getting forward Coolies to Jamaica, and ready to pay very liberally, considering the scarcity of tonnage, I am induced to solicit an offer for the "Jamestown." I send this by express boat, as time is an object, and the voyage for this ship already marked out for Manilla. Still your offer may be an object for me to abandon the latter, therefore you must send me your very best terms, as on receipt of same I shall either accept them or close my despatches to Captain Moore for Manilla.

Let your offer be very clear. Say $ per head for 500, or as many more as the ship can take in her 'tween decks.

Freight to be paid on the number shipped, less two (2) per cent. in the event of any mortality amounting to more than that per-centage, and no further abatement in any case, not excepting the possibility of the ship stopping on the voyage and the men escaping.

Ship to find water and fuel only, and to be despatched on 1st January, or sooner if possible.

Freight to be paid in Spanish dollars, on arrival of the ship at Jamaica.

'Tis unnecessary to send me an offer coupled with receiving freight on the number of Coolies landed, as it will not be considered for a moment.

So much has been said of your readiness to pay a ship more liberally than present rate of freights will yield, I shall be most happy to abandon the Manilla voyage of the "Jamestown," and meet you promptly; but remember the last clause, as I cannot take the slightest risk of being disappointed in the out-turn of the freight.

As the post boat may give me your reply earlier than the bearer of this can return, better write by it.

Very truly,
(Signed) H. W. Hubbett.

Sub-Encl. 3 to Encl. 1 in No. 6

Sub-Enclosure 3 to Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
Park Street, Westminster, February 24, 1854.

Sir,

I am directed by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to acknowledge your letters, No. 2. of the 10th December and No. 4. of the 26th December last.

The Commissioners regret much that you should have been unable to procure any shipping for emigrants for the West Indies. They entirely approve of your having increased your offer to $80 a head; they also fully approve the proceedings which you propose to take in regard of obtaining women, understanding your intention to be this,—that as wives are in fact obtained by purchase in China, you will furnish some of the emigrants procured by you with the means of effecting marriages in this, the usual manner, taking care that the connexion thus formed is one of a nature as legitimate and obligatory as the law and usage of China renders possible.

With regard to your intention to employ native surgeons, the Commissioners cannot but feel much apprehension, especially observing the large mortality which has taken place in two out of the three ships despatched by M. Jorgé to Cuba. They trust that if you find yourself forced to have recourse to this class of persons, you will have spared no pains to secure as capable a person as can be obtained.

The Commissioners would not as yet feel at liberty to sanction the expenditure of money in a depôt. The emigration from Hong Kong is at present experimental, not a single cargo of emigrants having been yet collected at that port. The Commissioners are glad to observe that you anticipate no difficulty in obtaining emigrants, but they do not think so large an expense (which does not appear to be indispensable) should be incurred, at least till those anticipations have been tested by experience. There is, however, one point in your proceedings to which the Commissioners cannot advert without great regret. Your instructions authorize you to despatch emigrants from Hong Kong, or, if necessary, from Amoy. But you state that you have entered into an engagement with Mr. Tait for despatching vessels from Namoa. There appeared reason to be dissatisfied with the mode in which the Messrs. Tait conducted in 1852 such part of the West Indian emigration as fell into their hands. Emigration from Namoa is, as you are aware, in direct violation of our treaties with China, and on that account, when emigration was set on foot from that port last year, it elicited an immediate remonstrance from the Foreign Office. The Commissioners trust, therefore, that no emigrants will have been despatched from that or any other locality which is not legally open to British trade.

The Commissioners have perused with much interest the account which you give of the emigration to Cuba and other destinations. They are glad to perceive that a stop has been put to an emigration alleged to be connected with so many abuses as that to Peru.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. Walcott,
Secretary.

J. T. White, Esq.

Enclosure 2 in No. 6.

Encl. 2 in No. 6.

GENTLEMEN, Downing Street, March 17, 1854.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, transmitting copies of two letters from Mr. White, reporting his proceedings in connexion with the emigration of Chinese to the West Indies, together with a copy of the answer you have returned to Mr. White.

I am to acquaint you, in reply, that the Duke of Newcastle approves of your answer to Mr. White; and his Grace has directed the Governor of Hong Kong to instruct the Surveyor-General of that colony to place himself in communication with Mr. White respecting the establishment of a depôt, in the case of the continuance of emigration, and to report his opinion respecting the expediency of such a step.

As regards the mode suggested by Mr. White for obtaining female emigrants, whilst his Grace is aware that Chinese marriages are always a matter of purchase of the wife from her parents, he desires that Mr. White be instructed to take care that neither himself nor his agents are the purchasers. The way to prevent such a result will, in his Grace's opinion, be to offer a bounty to married emigrants equivalent to the price paid by a man of the labouring class for his wife. He will then, in consideration of this sum, make his own domestic arrangements, and of course bring his wife with him.

I have, &c.

The Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners. (Signed) H. MERIVALE.

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 19.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 29, 1854.

I TRANSMIT, for your information, the copy of a report from the Land and Emigration Commissioners, with a statement drawn up by Mr. Caird of return Coolies to Calcutta in 1851, 1852, and 1853, and showing the reduction of mortality among these people since the adoption of precautionary measures. 19th April 1854.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Enclosure in No. 7.

Encl. in No. 7.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
April 19, 1854.

SIR,

1. WE enclose, for transmission to the colonies of Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad, copy of a return we have received from Mr. Caird of the ships which have carried Coolies back to Calcutta.

2. It will be remembered that the great mortality which occurred on board the "Zenobia," "Eliza," and "Glentanner," led to a minute inquiry as to the causes which occasioned it, and to the adoption of various precautions against its recurrence. The effect of these precautions is to be seen in the ships subsequently despatched*, in which the deaths were 49 out of 1,294 persons, being at the rate of about 4 per cent.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq. (Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Ship.	Persons embarked.	Deaths.
* Thetis	229	13
Harkaway	357	3
Ostrich	198	5
William Jardine	222	14
Bucephalus	286	12
	1,294	49

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of COOLIES who have returned to CALCUTTA from the WEST INDIA COLONIES during the Years 1851, 1852, and 1853.

Ships.	Port of Departure.	Date of Sailing.	Date of Arrival.	No. of Days on Voyage.	Emigrants embarked.							Born on Voyage.		Deaths on Voyage,						Immigrants landed.						
					Adults.		Children.		Infants.					Adults.		Children.		Infants.			Adults.		Children.		Infants.		
					Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Lucknow	Demerara	19th Nov. 1850	5th May 1851	166 Days	188	35	9	12	2	1	247	—	—	9	1	—	—	—	—	10	177	36	9	12	3	—	237
Eliza Stewart	Trinidad	31st May 1851	30th Dec. 1851	211 „	16	4	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	4	—	—	—	—	20
Zenobia	Demerara	21st June 1851	23d Dec. 1851	182 „	148	33	22	6	1	—	210	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	16	132	34	19	9	—	—	194
Eliza	Trinidad	6th Sept. 1851	28th Feb. 1852	173 „	320	—	—	—	—	—	320	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	—	30	256	39	16	16	9	—	336
Glentanner	Demerara	15th Nov. 1851	22d April 1852	157 „	241	37	23	8	—	2	311	—	—	75	8	—	—	—	—	83	172	29	28	—	—	—	229
Lucknow	Ditto	9th March 1852	4th August 1852	145 „	198	41	29	15	1	6	290	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	196	42	25	19	7	—	289
Clarendon	Trinidad	20th Feb. 1852	2d July 1852	133 „	251	—	—	—	—	—	251	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	29	3	—	—	1	—	*33
Thetis	Demerara	19th Oct. 1852	3d April 1853	163 „	192	24	3	—	7	3	229	—	—	12	1	—	—	—	—	13	178	24	3	—	6	3	214
Harkaway	Jamaica	10th April 1853	9th August 1853	119 „	239	68	20	12	18	—	357	10	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	3	235	67	20	14	32	—	368
Ostrich	Ditto	1st April 1853	23d August 1853	142 „	128	36	11	10	13	—	198	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	127	36	12	9	10	—	194
William Jardine	Ditto	15th April 1853	29th Sept. 1853	163 „	182	23	4	10	3	—	222	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	14	168	23	4	6	3	—	204
Bucephalus	Trinidad	3d August 1852	25th Dec. 1853	144 „	288	19	3	4	—	—	314	—	—	10	1	—	1	—	—	12	278	18	3	3	—	—	302

* Remainder landed at Madras.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta,
3d March 1854.

(Signed) T. CAIRD,
Emigration Agent.

No. 8.

BRITISH GUIANA.
No. 8.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 20.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 29, 1854.

I TRANSMIT, for your information, the copy of a report from the Land and Emigration Commissioners enclosing a statement prepared by Mr. Caird of the number of ships and emigrants despatched from Calcutta to British Guiana and Trinidad respectively during the season of 1853–4, and explaining the reason of the deficiency in the number of immigrants required by you. 19th April 1854.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Enclosure in No. 8.

Encl. in No. 8.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,

SIR, April 19, 1854.

1. WE enclose, for transmission to the colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad, the copy of a letter which we have received from Mr. Caird, with a statement of the number of ships despatched by him to British Guiana and Trinidad respectively during the season of 1853-4. It will be seen that the number despatched was, to British Guiana 1,999 souls, equal apparently to about 1,889 statute adults, and to Trinidad 697 souls, equal to about 671 statute adults. The numbers recommended by the Governor for British Guiana, and authorized by your letter of 28th May last, was 2,500, and the number required by Trinidad, and authorized by your letter of the 24th September, was 1,000. British Guiana therefore will receive about 600 and Trinidad about 300 less than the number ordered.

2. The reason of this deficiency, which is much to be regretted, is that the extraordinary freights now obtainable rendered it impossible for Mr. Caird to procure at any reasonable rate the shipping which he was authorized to take up.

3. For British Guiana Mr. Caird had been authorized to take up about one third of the vessels required, by no means a large proportion; but although his instructions reached him in very good time, he has been unable to charter more than one ship, the "Mary Harrison."

4. With regard to Trinidad, the lateness of the period at which we received instructions to set the emigration on foot rendered it impossible to take up any shipping in this country. Mr. Caird, it will be seen, took up two ships.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq. &c. &c. &c. (Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH. FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 8.

Sub-Encl. to Encl. in No. 8.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta,

SIR, March 3, 1854.

WITH reference to my letter to your address of the 5th December last, I have the honour to submit, for the information of Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners, a statement showing the number of labourers, with their families, who have embarked this season for the West Indies; and I have further to observe, that the people who have been despatched are, with very few exceptions, fine able-bodied men, and that better on the whole could not have been obtained.

2nd. The Coolies have been carefully examined by the surgeons of their respective ships before they were permitted to embark, and certificates to that effect, signed by the surgeons, and countersigned by the commanders, are herewith forwarded for the Board's information. Each individual's "pass" also bears the initials of the surgeon of the ship by which he or she may be proceeding. I therefore trust the shipments of the present season will reach the colonies in good condition, and that no grounds exist for complaints of any kind whatsoever.

3rd. I might have despatched to British Guiana from 400 to 500 emigrants, in addition to the number that have gone, had tonnage been procurable for their conveyance at anything like a fair price, but the rates asked for passages to the West Indies during the latter part of this season far exceeded what I considered I should be justified in giving, the cost of passages to Mauritius being at the present time 7*l.* per adult.

I have, &c.

S. Walcot, Esq. &c. &c. (Signed) T. CAIRD, Emigration Agent.

LIST of EMIGRANT SHIPS despatched to the WEST INDIA COLONIES from the Month of October 1853 to February 1854.

Name of Ship.	Tonnage.		Contract Price.	Date on which placed at the Disposal of Agent at Calcutta.	Date of Departure.	Embarked.							Remarks.
						Adults.		Children.		Infants.	Total Souls.	Statute Adults.	
	Old.	New.				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.				
			£ s. d.										
Harkaway - -	—	898	—	6th Oct. 1853 -	6th Oct. 1853 -	294	49	12	3	15	373	350½	
Mary Harrison -	—	780	12 10 0	3d Nov. 1853 -	3d Nov. 1853 -	241	39	18	6	9	313	292	
Clifton - - -	—	867	—	9th Dec. 1853 -	9th Dec. 1853 -	250	38	11	3	9	311	295	
True Briton - -	—	685	11 17 6	20th Dec. 1853 -	20th Dec. 1853 -	291	25	5	4	13	338	320½	
Bucephalus - -	—	985	—	27th Jan. 1854 -	27th Jan. 1854 -	309	35	9	4	8	365	350½	
Sussex - - -	—	960	14 0 0	1st Feb. 1854 -	1st Feb. 1854 -	322	25	4	3	5	359	350½	
Sandford - -	—	624	—	18th Feb. 1854 -	18th Feb. 1854 -	189	51	9	12	9	270	250½	
Shand - - -	—	836	—	23d Feb. 1854 -	23d Feb. 1854 -	290	52	10	7	8	367	350½	
						2,186	314	78	42	76	2,696	2,560	

—	Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.	Total Souls.
For Demerara, Total Number	1,573	264	69	35	58	1,999
For Trinidad, Total Number	613	50	9	7	18	697
TOTAL -	2,186	314	78	42	76	2,696

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta,
3d March 1854.

(Signed) T. CAIRD,
Emigration Agent.

No. 9.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Duke of Newcastle to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 26.)

Sir, Downing Street, May 9, 1854.

I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, forwarding copies of two letters from Mr. White, reporting that he has been unable to charter any vessels for the conveyance of Chinese emigrants to the West Indies, and that he proposes to return to England, leaving China last month. 12th April 1854.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Enclosure in No. 9. Encl. in No. 9.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,

Sir, April 12, 1854.

We beg leave to enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. White to the secretary of this Board, and an extract from a private letter from that gentleman to one of the Commissioners, from which it will be seen that he has been unable to charter any ships for emigration to the West Indies, and that he proposes to leave China in April. As the emigration should begin in September, it will be evidently necessary to make arrangements for the ensuing season, before Mr. White arrives in England, and independently of him. We are engaged in making inquiries respecting the mode in which this may be effected, and shall not fail to report to the Duke of Newcastle, as soon as we are in a position to do so.

We have, &c.

(Signed) C. Alexander Wood,
Frederic Rogers.

Herman Merivale, Esq.
&c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure 1 to Enclosure in No. 9. Sub-Encl. 1 to Encl. in No. 9.

Sir, Hong Kong, February 9, 1854.

The rates of freight from China to all parts of the world have been so high throughout the past season that I have found it impossible to procure vessels for the conveyance of emigrants. I have offered eighty dollars, and held out other inducements, that would bring the entire cost for freight alone to about eighty-four dollars for every man landed in the West Indies, but all these offers have been declined, and such has been the demand for shipping, and the unwillingness of captains to engage in this service, that I believe they would not have been accepted even if I had taken the responsibility of extending the offer to 100 dollars.

2. The agents for Cuba, Panama, and Peru have offered seventy dollars, but as they place generally fifty per cent. more passengers on board than would be permitted by the English Act, their offer is equivalent to 105 dollars. Only two vessels have been taken up here, one under Peruvian the other under Spanish colours, and both probably at somewhat lower rates than I have named. The other vessels that have been despatched were purchased by Mr. Jorgé (the principal agent for Cuba), or were chartered for the service previous to their arrival in China.

As the two vessels chartered by the Commissioners in London are under engagement to be here on the 14th instant, it would be imprudent on me to take other vessels in hand at this date, even if they could be procured on moderate terms.

The experience of this as well as of the former season seems to point out the absolute necessity of making arrangements in England for the supply of at least a portion of the shipping that may be required for the conveyance of emigrants. This is the plan which I have recommended since my first connexion with China, and seeing how futile have been my efforts to obtain vessels this season, it is greatly to be regretted that the arrangements for shipping made before I left England, and which were approved by the Commissioners and by Sir Henry Barkly, were not sanctioned by the Colonial Office.

3. The supply of shipping here is very fluctuating, and freights vary accordingly. Last summer the rates of freight to England were from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* per ton. In October they rose suddenly to 4*l.*, and have been increasing since then to 5*l.* 10*s.* and 6*l.* 10*s.* The French vessel mentioned in my last, for which I offered eighty dollars, is now taking cargo at 7*l.* 7*s.* per ton, and the freights from Shanghai are 8*l.* and upwards. While such fluctuations exist it would be necessary, in order to insure vessels here, to give the agent "carte blanche" to obtain them, and then the cost would probably exceed the amount for which vessels might have been engaged in England.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The competition for vessels to Cuba and Panama also must not be overlooked, and the increasing trade and emigration to California and Australia is likely to give occupation to the cotton vessels from India and the coal vessels from England that would otherwise seek employment to the West Indies.

4. The information I have from the various places whence emigration has taken place this season, as to the extreme eagerness of the Chinese to leave their country in quest of a subsistence elsewhere, leaves me no ground to anticipate that there will be the least difficulty in procuring next season any number of emigrants that may be required for the West India colonies. The disturbed state of the country in many places has probably driven people to the coast who would otherwise have remained quiet in their villages, but there is no doubt that the circle within which the influence of emigration is now felt is gradually extending to the interior, and that the numbers who now look to emigration as a relief from suffering and want of food will increase each year as population presses more and more on the common means of subsistence.

5. If 5,000 emigrants be required for the British West Indies next season, it would be well to take up shipping in England for the conveyance of 4,000, and to arrange so that the vessels should be at the disposal of the emigration agent and ready to take emigrants on or about the 1st and 15th of November, 1st and 15th of December, 1st and 15th of January, and 1st and 15th of February, say about 2,000 tons of shipping each month. This would leave October and March disengaged to procure shipping for the other 1,000 emigrants required, if the rates of freight were favourable.

6. In taking up vessels for the service, I recommend that a stipulation be inserted on the contract giving the agent authority to place the vessel for the reception of emigrants at any other place than Hong Kong which he may see fit to appoint, not extending beyond Amoy on the one side, or Macao and Whampoa on the other. The former would include Namoa, which, as far as experience goes, is the best field for emigration on the coast, as the people are quiet and well disposed, and evince so much desire to emigrate that it is difficult to restrain them from crowding on board when any vessel with emigrants is ready for sea.

7. I think the stipulation necessary; for although I have recommended Hong Kong as the head quarters for emigration, and although I believe it will be found ultimately the best site for the purpose, it is still an untried field, and difficulties may occur which I have not anticipated. To carry out the plan which I have recommended as to Hong Kong, a depôt is essentially necessary for the reception of emigrants from the mainland, and from Namoa and elsewhere; but this involves considerable expense, which I hesitate to incur, unless the emigration from China is likely to be placed on a permanent footing.

If vessels were placed at Namoa, and that engagements in Hong Kong with other vessels should prevent the agent from going there, he should require them to call here before leaving China, and have all the contracts signed here. This would prevent the possibility of deception being practised upon the emigrants, and would enable the authorities to inspect the vessel, and satisfy themselves upon every point connected with the security and comfort of the emigrants before starting on the voyage.

The run from Namoa to Hong Kong during the north-east monsoon seldom exceeds twenty-four hours, the distance being 160 miles. The other points where emigrants may be obtained, Macao and Whampoa, are comparatively close at hand.

If the stipulation be inserted, a regular depôt will not be required at Hong Kong for the present; and with the many other points for emigration thus made available to the emigration agent, there can hardly be a doubt of obtaining the full number of emigrants that may be required, in case unforeseen circumstances should prevent his obtaining them at Hong Kong, or that the condition and quality of those offering their services should not be such as to render them desirable for the West Indies.

I am aware that it would not answer for the Commissioners to make any express stipulation in the contract that the vessel should be placed at a port on the coast of China not recognized by the treaty as a place of trade, but I apprehend that this might be left to the discretion and responsibility of the emigration agent, the stipulation providing generally that the vessel should be at his disposal on a fixed date, to take emigrants to Hong Kong, or such other port or places as he may point out, not extending beyond Amoy on the one side, or Macao and Whampoa on the other.

I have suggested this as a measure of precaution at the beginning of emigration from Hong Kong, but I believe that this place will be found ultimately well adapted for emigration purposes, and that by proper arrangements and the establishment of a good depôt suitable and effective labourers may be obtained here, as well as from any other part of the southern coast of China.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES T. WHITE.

S. Walcot, Esq.
&c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure 2 to Enclosure in No. 9.

Sub-Encl. 2 to Encl. in No. 9.

Extract from Private Letter from Mr. White to Sir F. Rogers, 9th February 1854.

"I shall leave this in April, depending upon the departure of the above vessels; and "as I have no wish to return on my present footing, this will give ample time to make "such other arrangements as the Commissioners may consider necessary to supply "my place.

"I am so satisfied, however, of the success of emigration, if properly conducted, that "I would have no objection to come under engagement to furnish any given number of "emigrants for the West India colonies at a rate depending upon that at which I might "be able to procure shipping in London."

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 30.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 20, 1854. 3d May 1854.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, recommending that the surgeons and interpreters of Cooly emigrant ships should be paid by the Government instead of by the shipowners.

I have informed the Commissioners that I approve of the course which they propose to adopt.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Encl. in No. 10.

Enclosure in No. 10.

SIR, Colonial Land and Emigration Office, May 3, 1854.

IT has hitherto been the practice in taking up Cooly emigrant ships to throw the expense of paying the surgeon and interpreter on the shipowner; but this practice has led to complaints from some of our own surgeons, who have found themselves in a position of unusual subordination to the master of the ship, and has recently involved the Colonial Government in a dispute between an interpreter and the shipowner. It appears to us that these persons on a Government emigrant ship ought to be paid by and responsible to the Government; and we need hardly point out that the saving which appears to result from the other course is not real, as of course every expense thrown on the shipowner is added to the amount of freights. In our present charter-parties we propose to relieve the shipowner from these payments, and we would request authority to promise the surgeon payment at the rate of 8s. a head on the emigrants landed alive in the West Indies (the rate paid in return Cooley ships), and to authorize Mr. Caird to engage interpreters at the expense of Government, instead of requiring the shipowners to engage and pay them.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq. &c. &c. (Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH. FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 31.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 20, 1854.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Lieut.-Governor Walker's Despatches of the 25th February and 10th March last, Nos. 28 and 35, on the subject of Coolie immigration, the latter of them accompanied by a report in which the elective members of the Court of Policy comment on my Despatches respecting those provisions in the Immigration Ordinance, No. 3. of 1853, which had led to its disallowance, and suggest some modifications in the terms which I laid down for the assistance of the local legislature in framing a new law on this subject.

On the first matter I do not propose to enter further; but I request that you will assure the committee, that, whilst I regret that any difference of opinion

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should have arisen between myself and those by whom the provisions objected to by me in the disallowed ordinance were framed, I am quite ready to give them full credit for having proceeded with an earnest desire to pass an enactment that should maintain the rights of those Coolies who had already arrived in the colony, and at the same time should provide for the proper Government of those who should subsequently arrive.

There are two modifications in the new ordinance suggested by the committee.

1st. They recommend that the Coolies should not be allowed to quit the colony, even at their own expense, before their ten years' residence; and they urge that a vessel could not be chartered for their conveyance to India till a shipload should be prepared to go, and that the consequent delay would make the first applicants restless and dissatisfied.

I am of opinion that it will be better to risk the dissatisfaction, if there is any real chance of its arising, than to deprive the Coolies of what cannot but be considered a reasonable privilege; but, independently of this consideration, it must be remembered that the Coolies' right to return, and to be assisted by the Colonial Government in returning, at their own expense, after five years, was one of those conditions expressly stipulated for by the Indian Government in consenting to the postponement of a return passage for five years.

2d. The committee press for permission not merely to postpone but to commute return passages absolutely. You are aware that to this measure the Court of East India Directors entertain a decided objection; nor do I find in the report any fresh argument adduced for urging upon the Court a reconsideration of their previous opinion.

Under these circumstances I regret that I feel myself precluded from entertaining either of the committee's proposals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

No. 12.

No. 12.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Duke of Newcastle to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 35.)

Sir, Downing Street, May 31, 1854.

Page 151. I have received your Despatch of the 9th ultimo, No. 4, in which you remark that you do not find in the Draft Immigration Ordinance which I forwarded to you in my Despatch, No. 4,† of the 10th March, any provision for requiring a contribution of £35 from Coolies towards the repayment of the cost of their introduction.

†Page 13.

In my Despatch of the 16th January last you will find that I informed you that this proposal had been referred by the Court of East India Directors to the Indian Government, and that I noticed and provided for the possibility of its not being approved until the result of that reference should be known. The colonial legislature could not be in a position to legislate definitively on this point, and the Draft Ordinance consequently omitted advisedly all allusion to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

No. 13.

No. 13.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Duke of Newcastle to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 36.)

Sir, Downing Street, June 3, 1854.

27th May 1854. I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with copy of one from Mr. White,

from which you will find that from unavoidable causes no Chinese emigrants will have been sent to British Guiana in the past season. BRITISH GUIANA.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Enclosure in No. 13. Encl. in No. 13.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,

SIR, May 27, 1854.

WE enclose the copy of a letter which we have received from Mr. White, from which it appears that no Chinese will be sent during this season to British Guiana, the captain of the "Rose Ellis," which had been chartered in London for that purpose, having arrived after his time, and in consequence having refused to perform his engagements.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, &c. &c. (Signed) C. ALEXANDER WOOD. FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 13. Sub-Encl. to Encl. in No. 13.

SIR, Hong Kong, March 27, 1854.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d January (with the papers attached), authorizing me to offer a higher rate of freight than the amount contemplated in my "Instructions;" and stating, "that the Board would take "the responsibility of sanctioning an increased expenditure to the extent of 110 or even "115 dollars for one or two shiploads of emigrants."

2. My previous correspondence will have informed the Commissioners that I had in some measure anticipated these instructions, but that I had found it impossible to procure vessels. Shipping has been very scarce throughout the season, and the demand for California and Australia has been so great that freights have ruled higher than has been the case for many years past. Within the last four months sums have been paid for the purchase and charter of vessels to California and Australia which would scarcely gain credence in England.

3. To be on a par with the emigration to Panama and Cuba, I should have had to offer $100 for every emigrant, for the conveyance alone; but even on these terms I should not have been able to procure shipping.

4. In all the vessels taken up for California and Australia, a considerable portion of the freight, sometimes the whole, has been paid in advance; and captains and consignees naturally prefer that employment which gives a certain freight paid in advance to the uncertainty which attends the West India employment, where the freight is payable only upon arrival, and on the number of emigrants that may be landed. Personal considerations have also weighed considerably with the captains, when they had any control or influence over the destination of the vessel.

5. Mr. Comstock, the agent for Panama, left this by the last mail, and Mr. Jorgé, the agent for Cuba, has sold or chartered for California the vessels which he had purchased expressly for the Cuban emigration; both of these emigrations are therefore closed, at least for this season.

6. It is not possible to carry on the emigration from this in a satisfactory manner without having a properly organized depôt. The estimate I named in a former letter may be reduced to 150*l.* per annum, and 500*l.* for repairs. This will serve as a commencement, but will be insufficient for a large emigration. One of the buildings to which I adverted has now been occupied as a naval store for the American squadron, and another has been dismantled by Government, the materials being required elsewhere.

7. The "Epsom" will get away on or before the 1st of April. I have felt the want of a depôt very much in this case, and there has been a good deal of labour, confusion, and expense which might otherwise have been avoided. The Chinese are so cunning and scheming that great care is requisite to prevent deception and loss.

8. The "Rose Ellis," chartered for Demerara, arrived on the 13th instant. The captain of the vessel has thrown up the charter-party, and is now loading with teas for London. After paying forfeit, the vessel will clear fully 1,500*l.* above the amount she would have to receive for the conveyance of emigrants. Annexed is the correspondence upon the subject.

9. I have drawn upon the Commissioners by the present mail for 1,000*l.*, date 25th March, in favour of M. Dent & Co., and will send a statement of disbursements by the following mail.

I have, &c.

S. Walcott, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) JAMES T. WHITE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Ship "Rose Ellis" of London,
Hong Kong, March 14, 1854.

SIR,

YOU having intimated to me that it would take at least a month from this date before you could have the Chinese passengers ready to embark in the "Rose Ellis" of London for passage to the West Indies, which period of a month would cause the unfavourable monsoon of the China seas to have set in strong, and would throw the time of the "Rose Ellis" arrival in the West Indies in the middle of the hurricane season, thereby rendering the voyage, in my opinion, a hazardous one for passengers,

Under these circumstances I have to request that, if possible, you would be pleased to cancel the charter-party entered into between Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners and the owners of the "Rose Ellis," under date the 8th September 1853.

I am, &c.

James White, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) ROBERT LONEY,
Master.

SIR,

Hong Kong, March 15, 1854.

I AM to-day in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date.

If the "Rose Ellis" had arrived at the time named in the charter-party, viz., 14th February, I would have furnished you with emigrants so as to enable you to leave within a month after your arrival.

But as the "Rose Ellis" did not arrive in Hong Kong until the 13th instant, I consider that the penalty named in the second clause of the charter-party has been fully incurred.

I am prepared, however, to waive the penalty, and to renew the present charter-party, if you will undertake to be ready for the reception of emigrants by the 15th of next month, on which day I will furnish you with the complement of emigrants the ship may legally carry.

I have named the 15th of next month, because, having your cargo to discharge, and the necessary fittings to prepare, it is not probable that you can be ready before that time.

I will send a copy of your letter to the Commissioners, as with them rests the power of enforcing or mitigating the penalty, if you do not take emigrants to Demerara.

I am, &c.

Captain Loney, Ship "Rose Ellis."

(Signed) JAMES T. WHITE.

Ship "Rose Ellis,"
Hong Kong, March 17, 1854.

SIR,

I AM in receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and take due note of its contents.

Had the "Rose Ellis" not met with sea-damage, and consequent detention of a month on first leaving England, which damage was duly reported to Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners, she would have arrived here in ample time to fulfil the conditions of the charter-party. I observe that you are still prepared to set aside the penalty, and furnish the vessel with the complement of emigrants by the 15th of next month; but still think, as stated in my former letter, that the lateness of the season renders the voyage a very unadvisable one.

The average passage down the China sea during the south-west monsoon (which will have set in before the "Rose Ellis" can sail) is fifty days, as I am given to understand; that scarcely a vessel has left here with emigrants for the West Indies after the 1st of April which has not lost the majority of them is a further reason for declining the voyage.

In addition to this, the "Rose Ellis" would arrive at Demerara during the height of the sickly season, the effects of which upon the emigrants, after enduring a long sea voyage, would probably be most disastrous.

I trust that the preceding considerations will weigh favourably with the Commissioners with respect to the enforcement of the penalty for non-fulfilment of the charter-party, the more so as up to the present time no expense has been incurred on account of the non-arrival of the "Rose Ellis" at the stipulated time.

I remain, &c.

James White, Esq.
&c. &c.

(Signed) ROBERT LONEY,
Master.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 38.)

SIR,

Downing Street, June 12, 1854.

Enclosure.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a letter from Mr. White, containing suggestions on the subject of emigration from China to the West Indies.

With reference to Mr. White's suggestion, that the Chinese headmen should have power to inflict on their fellow labourers "such a moderate degree of "punishment as will not incapacitate the labourer from his daily task," and to his remarks on the expediency of encouraging the settlement of disputes and claims among the Chinese, I have to observe, that there would be nothing contrary to the principles of British independence in trying causes between Chinaman and Chinaman by a jury of Chinese; but I think further than this the Government should not go in establishing separate laws and judicatures for Chinese immigrants; or, if they were to go further, it should only be when driven by a necessity practically proved.

At the same time, if the Chinese have such a predilection for their own customs as to submit themselves, of their own free will, and with a full knowledge of the exemption which the law would afford them, to the punishments of a headman of their own race, and made no appeal to the law, the Government would of course have nothing to do with the matter.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Enclosure in No. 14.

Encl. in No. 14.

SIR, Hong Kong, February 22, 1854.

UNDER cover are a few remarks which I have prepared on the present state of emigration from China, and on the general management of Chinese emigrants.

With a people so peculiar as the Chinese, it would be easy to extend these remarks to an indefinite length, but I have confined myself to the more prominent and general traits in their character, attention to which will, I believe, ensure their comfort, and tend to promote their permanent settlement in the West Indies.

The "Epsom" and "Rose Ellis" chartered to be here on the 14th instant have not yet arrived.

I have, &c.

S. Walcott, Esq. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES T. WHITE.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 14.

Sub-Encl. to Encl. in No. 14.

REMARKS on Emigration from China, and on the general Management of Chinese Emigrants in the British West Indies.

Emigration from this country may be divided into two kinds; one has been in operation for many years to Singapore, the Straits settlements, and other islands of the Eastern Archipelago; has been carried on to a great extent to California, and has lately set in to Australia; the other kind is of recent introduction, and extends now to the British West Indies and Cuba, and to several points on the Western Coast of South America.

2. The former is carried on by independent Chinese, who are quite competent to provide for their own interests. They make their own arrangements as to passage, or they unite their means to charter foreign vessels, and carry on a considerable trade. These men generally take with them from twenty to fifty Coolies, who are under engagement to refund the cost of their passage, with such additional sum as may be agreed on, out of their first earnings, and within a given period after their arrival at their destination. A considerable number also of those who go to California borrow money to pay for their passage, say $50, and come under agreement to remit double the amount, or $100, in payment, within six months after their arrival. I am informed that these engagements have always been fulfilled.

The latter is carried on by Europeans, who engage labourers to work for a certain term of years, on certain definite conditions set forth in the contract of service, and who bear the entire cost of the conveyance of the Coolies from China to the various countries for which they are intended.

3. It will be seen that the first kind is purely Chinese, and that it is entirely voluntary and independent, and as Chinese of substance engage in it, it may be presumed to carry with it to a certain extent the approval of the influential and wealthy classes, and the tacit sanction of the official authorities. On the contrary, the latter kind is confined to the very poor and needy of the population, and will continue to be so until the success of the first emigrants has been proved by their return to China with well-lined pockets, and with satisfactory accounts of the new country. Then men of capital and of a more respectable position in life will probably be found ready to leave this for the West Indies and to embark in trading speculations, and in time, this emigration may acquire the same character as that to California, and become self-sustaining and inexpensive.

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But at present this emigration is viewed with distrust by respectable Chinese, and would probably be put a stop to by the local authorities, were it not that they derive pecuniary benefit by the trade, and that they are desirous to get rid of the increasing numbers that press upon the inadequate supplies of food, and who would cause turmoil and embarrassment to the mandarins on shore, or engage in piracy along the coast.

4. It is difficult to arrive at the exact amount of wages paid for labour in China, as they vary in different provinces and according to local circumstances, but they may be stated as being on the average from seventy-two to ninety-six cash per day for a strong agricultural labourer. Estimating the dollar at 1,200 cash or 5*s.* sterling, this is equal to 3*d.* to 4*d.* per day, or 1 dollar and a half to $2 per month. In addition to this, each labourer receives three meals of rice and vegetables per day and an allowance of samshoo (spirits distilled from rice), which may be valued in all at three farthings, making the wages of labour equivalent to $3\frac{3}{4}d.$ to $4\frac{3}{4}d.$ per day.

Skilled agricultural labourers are placed on the same footing as tradesmen. They receive higher wages than the common labourer (varying according to their skill), and have generally an interest in the produce from the soil.

Men hired by the year receive a daily allowance of food, and are paid for their labour at the end of the year, in kind, with a stipulated amount of grain. They have also the privilege of cultivating a small patch of ground with potatoes and other vegetables, and of working on their own account, when not required by their employer.

5. It is not probable that under present circumstances any of the above classes of men will emigrate to the West Indies, for the love of village and the ties of family are so deeply rooted in the Chinese mind that the offer of $4 a month, with the addition of clothes and food, will not be sufficient inducement for any man of respectable character to abandon his country, provided he can earn for himself a sufficient livelihood, under any of the conditions of labour to which I have adverted in the preceding paragraph.

6. For the present, therefore, and for some years to come, the emigration to the British West Indies will consist only of the poor and destitute. But hard work and industry are so habitual to the thoughts of the Chinese, that I have no doubt these men will become, with few or no exceptions, quiet and industrious labourers, provided they are kindly treated, and are placed in circumstances favourable to the development of their industrial energy. Removed from a state bordering on starvation, they will soon become robust, and their flaccid muscles harden, under the stimulus of substantial and abundant food.

7. So much must depend on local circumstances that it will be difficult to lay down any rules for the management and control of the Chinese in the West Indies capable of general application, but if the more prominent features of their character, and the peculiarities of their disposition be kept in view, they will be found easy to manage, and local regulations may be established suitable to the circumstances of each separate colony.

8. As far as my observation extends, the common labourer of China is a hard-working and industrious man, eager to acquire money, and anxious to elevate himself in the social scale. Hence I infer that the system of monthly wages will not answer well in the West Indies, for if he finds that he can earn more by working on his own account than he can by working under his original contract, he will become discontented with his position, and will seek to avoid the fair performance of his contract by every possible means.

The contracts made here are, however, necessary in the first instance, for the Chinese would not emigrate on the bare intimation that their passage would be paid, and that they would be sure to find employment if they emigrated. They require something more definite and tangible, and it is the stipulation as to wages, food, and clothing guaranteed to them by the agent with whom they enter into contract which alone provides sufficient inducement to them to leave this, and seek their subsistence in a foreign land.

The Chinese in general are faithful to their engagements, but it is not to be expected that they will adhere rigidly to an engagemeut extending over so long a period as five years, if they find that they can materially better their position by working on their own account.

9. I recommend, therefore, that they be released from their first engagements as soon as they show any marked disposition to that end, for I feel assured they will conduce more to the general interests of the community as free and independent emigrants than they will if the terms of their original contract are rigidly enforced.

Once released from these contracts, any new contract made with them may be safely depended on, after they have acquired some knowledge of the country, and provided the work required to be done has been clearly and distinctly explained to them.

10. On their first arrival they should be located in the same neighbourhood, and in companies of about fifty on each estate. They should be kept separate from the negroes, for some time will elapse before they become reconciled to living among and working with the black race, and quarrels will be avoided by their separation. One headman, selected by themselves, should be appointed to each company. It will be advisable to pay this man well, and to hold him responsible for the good working and orderly behaviour of the people under his charge. He should be allowed to appoint an assistant, who would work when not acting for his principal, and to whom the douceur of two dollars extra per month would prove a stimulus to good conduct.

If any of the work be badly done, or if any of the labourers behave improperly, the matter should be pointed out, and left for correction to the headman or his assistant. This gives them authority and power, which all Chinese covet, and saves Europeans from coming in contact with the mass of the labourers.

The headman should have power to settle disputes, and to inflict fines and a moderate degree of punishment, such as will not incapacitate the labourer from his daily task.

11. If the original contracts be relinquished, these headmen and their assistants will, in all probability, become contractors for the supply of whatever labour may be required in the field or elsewhere, and will find their own labourers for the purpose. In contracts of this kind, each hired labourer, besides receiving a small sum as wages from the contractor, has generally an interest, however small, in the contract. This binds them together. When the work is finished the money should be paid to the contractor, leaving him to settle with the people in his own way. Any interference between him and them will lead to confusion, and weaken his authority, which it is desirable to uphold.

This system of contracting for labour was in general use throughout the Province Wellesly when I was there in 1852, and was perfectly successful; whereas the other system of monthly wages had been previously tried, and had proved an entire failure. It appears to me well suited to the industrial habits and enterprize of the Chinese, and likely to promote their quiet and orderly behaviour. The conditions of labour in most of the West India colonies are similar to what they were in the Province Wellesly (the supply being inadequate, and the labourer independent), and as the system answered well in this case, I see no reason to doubt that it will answer equally well if adopted in the West Indies.

When contracts are entered into in China between foreigners and natives, it is the invariable custom to take the guarantee of some solvent and responsible Chinaman for the full and fair performance of the contract by his countryman. Every man who enters into the service of a foreigner, in whatever capacity, has to provide himself with a guarantee of this kind; and if the man in any way misconducts himself, or steals anything, the security holds himself responsible for his acts, and considers himself bound to refund the value of what may be stolen. This system prevails also in all transactions of the Chinese among themselves. With the present emigrants it would be premature to attempt anything of this kind; but it should be adopted as soon as possible, for it is congenial to Chinese custom, and will ensure the performance of contracts once entered into, which they might otherwise seek to evade.

12. The Chinese are intelligent and sagacious, and will undertake any kind of work that has been clearly and patiently explained. In general they are slow over their work, but persevering, and although capable of great exertion dislike being urged forward more rapidly than is congenial to them.

If hired by the month, they naturally avoid exerting themselves more than is absolutely necessary to secure their wages. They must, therefore, be well looked after and firmly dealt with, but under all circumstances be treated with kindness and patience. More work will be got from them by good humour than by compulsion.

If worried or driven at their work they will become sulky and unmanageable; and if spoken to with frequent harshness, or in any way dissatisfied with their treatment, will probably run away from their employer, whatever be the consequence. Excessive harshness would probably induce them to commit suicide; but kindness, good humour, and consideration to their wants and peculiarities of character will win their confidence, and make them cheerful and satisfied with their position. I have always found them good humoured and patient when treated with kindness, but hasty in their feelings and violent in their conduct when subject to what they consider ill-usage or oppression.

All interference with their persons should be carefully avoided, and above all with their hair, for they take pride in the length of their queue, and if deprived of this will consider it a gross outrage, which they will certainly resent.

13. Every facility should be given to them to correspond with their friends in China, and to make remittances of money. The poorest Coolie who goes down to the Straits settlements for his subsistence does so, and it can hardly be expected that the Chinese should think well of the West Indies if neither letters nor money are forthcoming.

From the Straits remittances of money are made by the hands of an agent, who receives it in Singapore or elsewhere, brings it on to China, and pays it himself to the persons who are entitled to receive it. This plan is not feasible in the present circumstances of West Indian emigration; but encouragement should be held out to the emigrants to send letters, and to place in the hands of the Colonial Governments whatever money they wish to send. If this were remitted through the Hong Kong Government to the consul at the port from which they embarked, or to the emigration agent, the proper steps would be taken for its payment to the parties for whom it was intended.

Letters and money would give a stimulus to the voluntary emigration of Chinese to the West Indies, which at present is wanting, in consequence of their ignorance of the country, and the doubts they entertain as to the condition and prospects of those who have already emigrated.

14. Though laborious, they are not servile, and in the manner and attitude of the commonest labourer there is an air of independence that seems to say, "I give full value in my labour for the wages which I receive." It is this feeling of independence that

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urges them, when abroad, to adopt whatever occupation they find most remunerative, and engagements of long duration made in this colony will not be adhered to if they find that they can better themselves by a change. They adapt themselves to circumstances with singular facility, and quit one trade or vocation for another, if they find the profits inadequate to their expectation. This is not the case, however, in China, where the pressure of population compels them to adhere to the calling they adopt in early life, and which is often hereditary, and transmitted for generations in the same family.

It is not probable that all who emigrate to the West Indies will remain agriculturists. From labourers they will become tradesmen, and from tradesmen labourers, and will change until they find some occupation that yields what they consider adequate remuneration. They are essentially a commercial people, and push this spirit even into the operations of agriculture. Throughout the Eastern seas the retail trade of the various islands is almost entirely in their hands.

15. They take pleasure in noisy music, and are excessively fond of the beating of drums and the clanging of gongs. When the days' work is over in the field, the villagers assemble in groups in their villages to enjoy this recreation, and I think it would be well to give them every reasonable facility for indulging it in the West Indies. The music, such as it is, will serve to keep them in good spirits, and will prevent their moping and regretting their own country, a feeling that is likely to creep over them unless a continued stream of emigration be maintained, and that they retain the hope of returning to the "Flowery Land" at some future day.

15. They are temperate in their habits, and I have not seen a drunken man or woman since my first arrival in China. The use of opium to excess is very rare, and to be seen must be sought for in the licensed houses specially appropriated to the purpose. Even there, the cases of excess from this cause are but one to a hundred, compared with the drunkenness of the foreign sailors, and of the soldiers and others (women too, occasionally, I regret to say), who infest the licensed spirit shops of Hong Kong, and are a disgrace to our Christian civilization. In the middle class, and with respectable Chinese, opium is used in moderation; two or three pipes suffice for their wants, and when not indulged in beyond this it produces only the same kind of stimulus and exhilaration as that produced by a glass of wine or of ale in England.

16. The Chinese have no particular day set apart for religious purposes, but attend in their temples whenever any particular event calls forth their gratitude or repentance, when they present small offerings of fruit, rice, tea, or anything else they may have at hand, and perform some superstitious ceremonies. They reckon time by the lunar month, and mark the events of each month by their distance from the new or full moon. The only two great festivals which they observe are the "feast of lanterns," in September, and the "commencement of the new year." The latter will of course vary in time according to the moon's age, but generally falls in the month of January. It is a period of great rejoicing, and lasts for seven or eight days. All debts are settled, visits paid, and the air rings with the explosion of crackers fired off in token of their joy. They should have every facility to celebrate these festivals in their own way.

17. They are fond of society, and of gossipping together. Barbers' shops, teashops, and eating houses are the places to which they resort for this purpose. Every village has them, on however small a scale, and they are regulated and controlled by the heads of the village. It would perhaps be advisable to encourage the establishment of a few such places. At any rate it is probable that a few men will become cooks, barbers, tailors, shoemakers, pedlars, &c., and those men, moving about from estate to estate, will supply the others with whatever they require. In this way they will soon organize a society of their own. The instruments and apparatus necessary to these peripatetic dealers and tradesmen will cost only a few dollars here, and if procured at the expense of Government will I doubt not be gladly purchased by them in the West Indies. With these, to which they have been so long accustomed, they will be able to carry on their business in the manner most suited to their habits.

18. The Coolies or common labourers of China appear to me well adapted to bear the heat of the West Indies, for they work in the open air throughout the year, and in summer the heat here is fully equal to any I have experienced in the West Indies, but they suffer from cold and wet. In the winter time they look pinched up and miserable. I recommend that every provision be made for their warmth at night, and that the houses in which they lodge be kept dry. These precautions will be necessary for a short time only after their arrival, as they will soon be able to take care of themselves. They should be furnished also with nets to protect them from the mosquitoes. They use nets in their own country, sleep off the ground, and are careful to adopt every means that will insure unbroken rest. They are social and gregarious in their habits, and will prefer being together in one large house instead of being scattered in cottages at a distance from each other. The common broad brimmed bamboo hat, which is almost impenetrable by the sun's rays, and serves also as shelter from rain, is the universal covering for the head among the Coolies in this part of China, and will be found equally well adapted to the West Indies.

19. They are large eaters, and to keep them contented and in health they require an ample supply of food. Their first thought is their belly, and whether fed by their employers or put to their own resources, will take the best care of this important member.

They have no prejudices against any kind of food, and eat everything that comes in their way, but prefer rice and vegetables, saltfish, and pork. A little hogslard or oil and vinegar should be given as condiments. They never drink cold water, but invariably "tea" (which in the cottage of the commonest labourer is always kept hot and ready for use), and every facility should be given them to procure their national beverage.

20. They are naturally gifted with strong constitutions. As they are temperate, cases of inflammation are rare, and wounds heal up readily. As far as I am aware, they are not subject to cholera, and their fevers are of a mild type. The diseases from which they suffer most are cutaneous, and those arising from unwholesome or insufficient food. They have great faith in our system of surgery, but none in our system of medicines, and prefer their own herbals and nostrums to the drastic purges and active medicines of the English pharmacopeia.

21. If the Chinese have any one religious feeling in their minds, it is that of reverence for their ancestors, and respect for the bones of their deceased relatives and friends. It would be well therefore to set apart a place of burial for their use; but as they have great faith in the selection of a "lucky spot" as the place of interment for their deceased relatives, they will probably not confine themselves to the place assigned to them, but will bury occasionally in such spots as they consider "fortunate." The hill side, with a distant view of the sea, is the site they seem to prefer, and is generally selected along the southern coasts of China.

22. The great difficulty in the way of a permanent settlement in the West Indies is the absence of women. Families never emigrate from China, and although thousands upon thousands of men have gone to the Straits settlements, and other portions of the Eastern Archipelago, there is no record of any families having gone. If a few women have found there way there, they form single exceptions to the general rule, and were undoubtedly purchased in the first instance and carried there as slaves; but in these islands the want of Chinese women is not so much felt, for the Chinese cohabit readily with Malay women (who are of cognate race), and their female offspring intermarry with the fresh emigrants from China, so that the Chinese type becomes stronger with each generation. The women who have gone to California are prostitutes who have sold themselves, or who have been sold by their relatives for the purpose, or who have entered into engagements to serve in that capacity for a given period, as repayment for money advanced to themselves or relatives previous to their departure from Hong Kong.

23. It may therefore be considered as an ascertained fact that in the present state of feeling in China families and respectable women will not emigrate, and that the only means of obtaining women is by advancing money for their purchase. It is possible, if the first return emigrants bring a favourable account of the West Indies, that they may induce their families to return with them, if some strong inducements were held out for the purpose; but I have great doubt of it; and under any circumstances it would have to be managed clandestinely, for the mandarins would interfere to prevent it.

24. One reason, and perhaps the principal one, why families do not emigrate, is, that no Chinaman leaves his country without the hope of returning to it at some future day, when he will be able to form a matrimonial connexion in his native village, and there raise up children to preserve his name and perform the customary ceremonies at the tombs of his ancestors. This object is never out of mind, but the eagerness of gain makes him defer his return from time to time until ill-health or old age overtake him, and at length he dies in the country of his adoption.

They are said to have an unconquerable repugnance to the negro, and that they will not cohabit with the negro women. Experience will soon show how far this may be correct; but I doubt it, for their passions are strong and their antipathies must give way to the impulses of nature. They will probably associate with the negro, or at any rate with the mulatto, as they have done with the Malay women. The fresh emigrants will connect themselves with the offspring of the first settlers, until in the course of years all appearance of the alien blood be effaced, and the Chinese type revert to nearly its original purity.

25. Their judicial control is one of the most difficult points for the consideration of the authorities in the West Indies. It is found here and in the Straits settlements that the English laws, with their many fictions and subtleties and elaborate formalities, are not suited to the Chinese character, and that they are evaded, and in some measure set at nought, by the Chinese combining among themselves for the purpose. Hence it has been found necessary to invest a few of the more respectable and wealthy Chinese with authority legally to settle claims and disputes among their own countrymen and in their own way. I apprehend that some such system will be requisite in the West Indies, as soon as they are in sufficient numbers to form village settlements.

Annexed * is a copy of an Act which has been passed recently by the Council of Hong Kong, and which may serve to show the general principles adopted in legislating for the Chinese in this colony.

* Not sent.

26. In Java the Chinese are entirely under the control of Chinese officers appointed by the Dutch Government under a kind of military organization. There is a board of these officers in every district throughout the island, and they are responsible for the good conduct of the Chinese in their several districts. They have magisterial and police authority, and administer justice according to the laws and usages of China, reserving

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only such cases as involve life or protracted periods of punishment for the consideration and ultimate decision of the Supreme Government.

27. In a race so peculiar as the Chinese, and so opposite in their modes of life and habits of thought to our own, it would be easy to multiply particulars and to give details, all of interest, and bearing upon their management and control in the West Indies. But these remarks are already too long, and I believe that judicious and successful management will be insured if due consideration be paid to the more prominent points of their character.

They must be treated with kindness and patience, and with consideration for their peculiar feelings and social usages. They are docile under firm and kind treatment, and are eager to execute well any work that has been clearly and patiently explained to them. They are obedient to authority, and reverent towards old age; but if their peculiar habits and customs be interfered with, or if unnecessary harshness of manner be adopted towards them, they will become sulky and impracticable, and of little value. The principle of association is strongly planted in their minds, and they combine for all purposes of profit, pleasure, or revenge. Injustice will rouse their passions, and once fully roused they are regardless of their own or other human life.

I doubt whether they will amalgamate with the negro race, for they have extravagant notions of their own superiority, and of the greatness of their country, and are bigoted to their own customs. I believe it will be found expedient to settle them in small communities by themselves, when they will adopt the village system of their own country, and follow out their own social and domestic usages.

If the climate be suitable to their constitution, and there be present a sufficient number of their own countrymen to wean their thoughts from home, they will soon become contented settlers, and be found probably the most valuable labourers ever transported to the West Indies.

I have, &c.

Hong Kong, February 8, 1854. (Signed) JAMES T. WHITE.

P.S. In reference to paragraph 18, I may add that the Chinese in the province of Kiangsu and the lowlands bordering the Yang-tze-Kiang river manufacture a substance which they call "Musquito tobacco," and which is used expressly for the purpose of driving off musquitos. Mr. Robert Fortune informs me that he has tried it repeatedly and always with success, the musquitos disappearing when it was used, and returning as soon as it was burnt out. It is prepared in the form of the common Chinese license sticks, and he supposes it to consist principally of fir and sandal wood, sawdust, and of a small proportion of arsenic, but as he has not had it analysed there may be some other ingredient of which he is not yet aware.

J. T. W.

No. 15.

No. 15.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 41.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 12, 1854.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Lieut.-Governor Walker's Despatch, No. 38,* of the 11th of March last, respecting the number of Chinese and Cooly immigrants to be introduced into British Guiana during the present year.

* Page 147.

2d May 1854.

I transmit for your information the copy of a report upon the subject of that Despatch which has been made by the Land and Emigration Commissioners.

I cannot refrain from expressing some surprise that Mr. Walker should have transmitted to the Secretary of State the letter of the Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence of the 9th of March, without noticing in his Despatch, and apparently without having noticed to the Commissioners, the extravagant error committed by them in representing the number of Coolies ordered as 47,500.

Statements of this nature must tend rather to embarrass than promote the execution of a service in which it is so necessary that all persons concerned shall co-operate with mutual confidence and cordiality.

With reference to the complaint made by the Court of Policy, that the offer of Messrs. Hyde, Hodge, & Co. had not been sanctioned, you will perceive by the enclosed report that the offer was required to be accepted or rejected before the departure of a packet then about to sail, and that it would have been impossible, therefore, to test the fairness of the offer by

public tender or otherwise. Under these circumstances, however advantageous the offer might be, it was not thought right that the Secretary of State should assume the responsibility of an immediate acceptance of it.

The system of dealing by public tender is one which Her Majesty's Government regards as important to be maintained in all cases in which there is not some cogent reason to the contrary, and especially in cases in which the Government is acting on behalf of distant communities, from which the judgment it might exercise on a more arbitrary and less methodical system, if happening to be erroneous, might not perhaps meet with the most favourable construction.

The necessary consequence of bearing heavily upon the Government in any cases in which they have exercised their discretion unsuccessfully, though to the best of their judgment, is that they must adhere to methods of proceeding which more or less exclude the exercise of their discretion, and exempt them from responsibility, though these methods will not be in every instance those which will be most advantageous.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
May 2, 1854.

SIR,

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 19th ultimo, transmitting the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of British Guiana, with a resolution of the Combined Court, and other documents respecting the number of Chinese and Coolie immigrants to be introduced during the present season.

2. The Combined Court apply for not less than 2,000 Chinese, exclusive of the deficiency of the 1,500 already ordered, also for not less than 10,000 Coolies for the coming season.

3. The first question is, what means exist for meeting the expenses of this large immigration. As it does not appear probable that more than 250 Chinese will have been sent out during the present season, the demand of the Court is practically for 3,250 (2,000 and 1,250) persons of this class, whose expenses cannot be safely estimated under present circumstances at less than 25*l.* a head. The expenses of the Coolies we may take at 15*l.* The result is as follows:—

	£
3,250 Chinese at 25*l.* - -	81,250
10,000 Coolies at 15*l.* - -	150,000
Total -	231,250, say 230,000*l.*

But the balance of the guaranteed loan applicable to that purpose will not probably exceed, if indeed it amounts to, 35,000*l.**, and in the papers now forwarded there is not any allusion to the mode in which the Combined Court propose to provide for the difference of (say) 195,000*l.*

4. The application, therefore, can only be treated practically as showing a desire that Chinese and Coolie immigration should be prosecuted to the extent of the funds in our hands. Nor do we see how any liabilities could be safely incurred beyond the extent of these funds till an answer is received (by anticipation or otherwise) to the financial questions raised in our letter of the 9th of March. Meantime we are exceedingly anxious that no time should be lost in giving effect to the desires of the Combined Court

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* SUMMARY STATEMENT of the ASSETS and LIABILITIES of the BRITISH GUIANA LOAN FUND.

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
In the hands of the Colonial Land and Emmigration Commissioners, April 27th, 1854 -	6,811	0	0
In the hands of the Bank of England, probably - - -	10,000	0	0
Still to be raised - - -	50,000	0	0
	£66,811	0	0

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Coolie emigration, still unpaid, of 1852, 3, 4 - - -	20,000	0	0
Emigration of 250 Chinese -	5,500	0	0
Governors bills drawn before receipt of instructions to discontinue drawing, and miscellaneous expenses - -	5,000	0	0
Balance - - - -	36,311	0	0
	£66,811	0	0

N.B.—In this statement nothing is allowed for Coolies' return passages, or for commutation.

BRITISH GUIANA.

as far as possible. As, however, the subject of oriental immigration cannot be disposed of with exclusive reference to one colony, we will first state our general position with regard to this service.

5. We were ordered last year to send 1,000 Coolies to Trinidad, and have sent 697 souls, being 671 statute adults; that is, we have still a shipload to send out. Unless bills are unexpectedly drawn on us from the colony, we shall have sufficient funds to pay the cost of this ship, even after allowing 6,000*l.* for furnishing or commuting return passages.*

6. We were ordered to send 2,000 Chinese to Jamaica. We shall not send more than 250, and the money to send the remaining 1,750 (say six ships) is either in our hands or capable of being raised.

7. We were authorized to send 2,500 Coolies and 1,500 Chinese to British Guiana. 1,999 Coolies (equal to 1,889 statute adults) have been and not more than 250 Chinese will be sent. For this year the request of the colonists is (as we have said) for 10,000 Coolies (600 of whom may roughly be said to be the deficiency of last year) and 3,250 Chinese. The available funds we would for the present estimate at 30,000*l.*

8. As the time is come when the first ships should be taken up for the Coolie emigration, we should propose to advertise for shipping next Thursday, and to receive tenders on the following Thursday. We conceive that our present instructions would authorize us to take up two ships for British Guiana and one for Trinidad. But looking to the requisition of the colonists, and the amount of funds in our hands, we should propose, unless the Duke of Newcastle should object to that course, to take up an additional ship (that is three in all) for British Guiana; and it will perhaps be most convenient that we should proceed to do this, unless before Thursday the 11th May we receive instructions to the contrary. We should hope that the expense of these ships would not exceed 15,000*l.* for the former and 5,000*l.* for the latter colony. We would suggest that the colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad should be informed that these ships will be taken up.

9. With regard to the observations of the Board of Immigration Correspondence in British Guiana on previous deficiencies in the supply of Coolies, we have to state that the deficiency of last season was reported upon in our letter of the 19th ultimo.

10. In regard to the alleged deficiencies of previous years, we stated in our letter of the 18th November 1853 (alluded to by the Board), since the resumption of emigration, that we had only received directions to send out 5,000 Coolies, and that accordingly during the ensuing three years 5,222 souls were shipped in Calcutta, and 4.986 landed in British Guiana, and (although we must admit that the 4,986 persons landed only constituted 4,628 statute adults) we considered that the order of the Secretary of State had been substantially performed. The Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence, however, appear to consider that the supply of Coolies furnished by this Board is in arrear of the requisition by no less a number than 29,276 persons. The process by which this startling result is obtained is the following:—The Commissioners have added together the successive recommendations of the Combined Court or of their own Board, without examining how far each was in addition to or merely repeated previous requisitions, or what funds were forthcoming to give effect to these demands at the time they were made, or whether they were sanctioned by the Secretary of State. From the total of 47,500 † Coolies thus obtained they have subtracted the number actually introduced (17,324), and, with a comparatively unimportant correction, treated the rest as arrear. We need hardly observe that it had not occurred to us to investigate the question on this principle.

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* Trinidad Guaranteed Loan.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Share of loan still to be raised				25,000	0	0
Deduct—						
Balance overdrawn	759	0	0			
Expenses of two Cooley ships in 1853-4	10,000	0	0			
Return passages	6,000	0	0			
				16,759	0	0
Available for emigration of 1854-5				£8,241	0	0

† Ordered on 14th May 1846		15,000
21st January 1847		10,000
6th April 1847		10,000
23d January 1850		10,000
19th May 1853		2,500
		47,500
Arrived	17,324	
Expected	900	
		18,224
		29,276

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11. We now come to the important question of Chinese emigration; and in the first place we have to acknowledge the truth of the statement made by the Commissioners, that not a single Chinese immigrant has been sent to British Guiana through the instrumentality of this Board. But it is due to ourselves to add that this has arisen almost entirely from the uncertainty which has attached to the movements of Mr. White, a gentleman selected for the management of the emigration by the colonists.

12. The first arrangements for this emigration were considered in the autumn of 1851, and we find that in October of that year we informed the West India Committee (with whom we had been placed in communication) of the recommendation which we were prepared to submit to the Secretary of State. Nor probably should we have delayed to proceed with the preliminary arrangements, but for the opinion of the committee to which they constantly adhered, and in the prudence of which we cordially concurred, that no step should be taken till Mr. White, in whom they placed entire confidence, should have returned to England. That gentleman, however, not then holding a Government appointment, had been led by a natural curiosity to visit Egypt on his way home, and for this and other reasons did not arrive in England till some months after he had been expected, that is in May, at a time when the arrangements for the next season (which lasts from September to March inclusive) ought to have been already determined, and the first ships taken up. We need not recall the negotiations which took place with the hope of placing the emigration in the hands of a firm of wealth and reputation, and the substantial difficulties and objections which had then to be submitted to and considered by the Secretaries of State for the Colonial and Foreign Departments. These and other causes rendered it impracticable to complete the preliminary arrangements, and enable Mr. White to leave England till the August steamer. It was then so late in the year that it became impossible to engage on reasonable terms more than one ship, then on her voyage to Australia, for the ensuing season. This ship was prevented by the misconduct of her crew from sailing to Hong Kong, and Mr. White was unable to charter any at a moderate rate in China.

13. British Guiana, however, received a fair proportion of emigrants by the operation of the colonial bounty, and we may add, that, far from being charged at that time with dilatoriness, we ourselves incurred some blame, both in England and in the West Indies, for having, by the arrangement which we made for Trinidad (not without some apprehension of the failure which actually took place), left Mr. White nothing to do in China. As he found himself unable to effect anything, this was of course fortunate.

14. In 1853, as the time approached when it was advisable to take up shipping, we were unexpectedly informed by Mr. White that it was his intention to leave China for England in March. Of course it became at once impossible to take any steps in the emigration, since we could not be sure how soon an emigration agent would be again on the spot to fill the vessels which we might charter. But the Government had also become alarmed at the abuses which had taken place in the conduct of Chinese emigration to other countries; and when it appeared that Mr. White was coming home, we received positive instructions not to proceed further, without consulting him and other authorities on the best mode of preventing them. He arrived in June, and after the various questions which affected the emigration (including the terms of his own re-appointment) had been settled, the season was again so far advanced that few ships could be procured, and these only for the last months of the season. We were only able to obtain two on reasonable terms; and we may add, that the decision of the Government had been taken, and Mr. White placed in a position to leave England before his domestic arrangements allowed him to do so. Since his arrival in China, the high freights have rendered it impossible for him to charter any shipping.

15. We regret to add, that now, in 1854, the same difficulties have recurred from the same cause. Our instructions to Mr. White distinctly stated the understanding on which he was appointed, namely, that he would remain in the service of Government till the 3,500 emigrants then ordered had been despatched to Jamaica and British Guiana. But on the 24th of December he wrote to us, requesting leave to return to England after the end of the season. This we immediately and decidedly refused. It is not likely however, that our refusal would reach Mr. White, for a member of this Board has since received a letter from him, in which he states his intention to return (without waiting for leave of absence) in April, but adds that he does not expect or desire to be re-appointed. Knowing the value attached by the colonists to this gentleman's services, and fully appreciating the advantages of his experience and intelligence, we have endeavoured in all respects to support him, and have recommended for the approval of the Secretary of State all the suggestions made by gentlemen representing the West India interests for securing his services. But we must frankly say that we cannot hope to conduct the emigration properly except through the instrumentality of a person on whose movements we can rely. We are therefore unable to recommend that Mr. White should be again employed in this service, and have accordingly endeavoured to devise some fresh arrangement which we may submit to the Secretary of State. Till such an arrangement is approved, it would not be safe to take up any shipping, although we are painfully sensible that valuable time is slipping away.

16. Several modes of proceeding have been suggested. The employment of a Mr. Scott, a broker, we believe, at Hong Kong, who has acted for Mr. White, and is recommended by

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him; of Messrs. Tait and Co., also recommended by Mr. White, as the most eligible of the firms concerned in emigration; of Mr. Hillier, now police magistrate; and of a gentleman now connected with the firm of Mattheson, Jardine, and Co. But of Mr. Scott and Messrs. Tait we have not sufficient knowledge to recommend that the management of so delicate an experiment should be placed in their hands. It does not appear at all likely that the police magistrate at Hong Kong could properly be called on to perform the duties of this office, and the last-named gentleman, it appears, could not accept it.

17. The result is, that we would request to be allowed to appoint as emigration agent in China Mr. Sutherland, a gentleman who has been for some time assistant emigration officer at Liverpool, and emigration officer at Londonderry. Mr. White's salary was 1,500*l.* a year. We would propose that Mr. Sutherland's should be 800*l.* besides contingent expenses, and of the cost of his passage to and from Hong Kong, and that he should have authority to make such arrangements as he may find practicable for filling the vessels which we may charter, either through native agents or through any English firm, and, under our instructions, to charter ships for the emigration. We anticipate the concurrence of the West India Committee in this course.

18. Mr. Sutherland has served as purser in the Royal Navy, and had some opportunities during the Chinese war of acquainting himself with Hong Kong and the Chinese. His services at Liverpool have been of great value to us in the superintendence both of ordinary passenger ships and of our own depôt at Birkenhead, and we place much reliance on his integrity, industry, and practical ability. We should feel great confidence, therefore, that the emigration, if in his hands, would be conducted with energy, and that it would be within our own effective control.

19. If the Duke of Newcastle should approve of this arrangement, we would lose no further time, subject always to any question which may arise on our report of this date on your letter of the 20th April, in advertising for shipping. We should endeavour to give shipowners the option either of tendering individual ships, or of furnishing shipping for the whole season, taking care, of course, to incur no liabilities which we had not funds to meet. We might be able, if advantageous terms were offered, to contract for sending about 1,700 men to Jamaica, and from 300 to 500 to British Guiana.

20. On these points we have to request the Duke of Newcastle's instructions.

21. There is one other matter to which we may be expected to advert. The proposal of Messrs. Hyde, Hodge, and Co. to introduce Chinese at 96 dollars (20*l.*) a head. It will probably be remembered that in offering these terms Messrs. Hyde, Hodge, and Co. stated that in order to perform them it would be necessary that they should be enabled to give directions to their captains in the Indian seas by the mail which was then leaving England. As there was no time for consideration, it was impossible to ask from the Secretary of State any binding decision on this offer. But neither could Messrs. Hyde, Hodge, and Co. alter the destination of their ships without some expectation that this sanction would be given to the arrangement, and such expectation it was impossible to hold out.

22. However inadmissible the acceptance of such an offer without tender may have been, we fear that the expense of introducing the 3,500 immigrants desired for Jamaica and British Guiana may be between 10,000*l.* and 15,000*l.* more than if the proposal of Messrs. Hyde, Hodge, and Co. could have been accepted and carried out.

We have, &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 43.)

Colonial Office to Foreign Office, 28th March 1854.
Foreign Office (Extract), 4th April 1854.
Land Board (Extract), 2d May 1854.
Colonial Office to Foreign Office (Extract), 12th June 1854.

SIR, Downing Street, June 12, 1854.

I ENCLOSE for your information copies and extracts of a correspondence between this office, the Foreign Office, and the Commissioners for Emigration, arising out of a proposal made by Mr. White, the emigration agent in China, to procure female emigrants from that country by making advances of money to male emigrants for the purchase of women in marriage, according to the customs of China.

You will perceive that the inclination of my own judgment has been to authorize the offer of a bounty to married emigrants equal to the price ordinarily paid in China by a man of the labouring class for his wife, the result to be expected being that emigrants will procure wives on the credit of the bounty.

You will further perceive, that the Earl of Clarendon regards the proposal with great alarm, as involving the instrumentality of the British Government in promoting the sale of Chinawomen for expatriation without their consent, and that the Emigration Commissioners defend it on this ground, amongst others, that in China, female children are habitually either destroyed or sold as slaves to procuresses, to be brought up as prostitutes, and that it were better they should be sold in marriage to be taken to a free country.

When an agent shall be again sent to China, he will be instructed to report, on the one hand, whether the offer of a bounty to men who have been enabled to marry from their own resources will be available to procure the emigration of married conples, or, on the other, whether the offer of a bounty in advance to male emigrants, to enable them to marry, can be so guarded as to ascertain that marriages shall not take place in virtue of the advance without the consent of the woman to the marriage and to the emigration.

I send you this correspondence, in order that you may be aware of the very serious questions which are arising out of the disproportion of the sexes in the emigrations from Asia hitherto effected or set on foot.

It is necessary to apprize you, that unless the difficulties of redressing this disproportion can be in one way or another overcome, the emigration cannot be permitted to proceed. Her Majesty's Government cannot incur the reproach of forming over again in the West Indies and Mauritius such male communities as were formed in the earlier part of this century in Australia.

So long as the emigrants went to the West Indies to labour for a term of five years and no more, with a purpose, to be duly executed, of returning to their country and families at the end of that term, the evil of being unaccompanied by their wives, great as it was, might not be regarded as intolerable. But first the practice was adopted of inducing the Coolies to commute their back passages, and engage themselves to remain for a second period of five years, and next the Court of Directors sanctioned an original contract for a ten years' residence, and the result must be expected to be that the greater number of the East Indian immigrants will never return, whilst the Chinese, who make no stipulation to have a back passage provided for them, will also in all probability settle in the colonies to which they are brought.

These facts and prospects give an importance to the disproportion of sexes which it is impossible any longer to overlook, and unless that disproportion can be rectified it will be indispensable that the emigration should be brought to a speedy termination, deeply as that necessity would be to be lamented.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

Encl. 1 in No. 16.

SIR, Downing Street, March 28, 1854.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to transmit to you, for the information of the Earl of Clarendon, a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, transmitting copies of a correspondence with Mr. White on the subject of Chinese emigration to the West Indies, together with a copy of the answer returned to the Commissioners by his Grace's desire.

25th Feb. 1854, page 20.

17th March 1854, page 25.

I have, &c.

H. N. Addington, Esq.

(Signed) H. MERIVALE.

Encl. 2 in No. 16.

Enclosure 2 in No. 16.

Extract of Letter from H. N. Addington, Esq. to F. Peel, Esq.

Foreign Office, April 4, 1854.

LORD Clarendon directs me further to state, that he has read with great alarm the plan proposed by Mr. White for procuring female emigrants, which, even under the restrictions and limitations placed upon Mr. White by the Duke of Newcastle, appears to his Lordship to afford an opening for the greatest abuses, and in fact, to set on foot a trade little different from the slave trade. It is notorious that no respectable Chinese

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woman will voluntarily expatriate herself; and the offer of a bounty to Chinese men to procure women to accompany them is calculated, Lord Clarendon apprehends, to lead to most mischievous results. It may be perfectly true that in China, as in some other countries, marriage may be a matter of bargain and sale, but Lord Clarendon conceives that it is very desirable that the British Government should take no part, directly or indirectly, in such transactions.

Encl. 3 in No. 16.

Enclosure 3 in No. 16.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
May 2, 1854.

(Extract.)

The question of a female emigration is a far more anxious one. The overpowering necessity for such an emigration in the present case arises from the fact that the form of depravity which is to be anticipated from a purely male emigration already exists among the Chinese, and we can scarcely doubt that the absence of females would ultimately accumulate an amount of vice which would be intolerable.

The immediate supply of any large number is no doubt impossible. Every emigration not carried on by a wholesale compulsion must, we apprehend, in its outset be male. Neither in China, India, nor England can any large number of females, still less of respectable females, be persuaded to leave their country till their new home has been tested by an emigration of those who are more able to face the dangers of the experiment. In China this feeling amounts to a superstition, which is but slightly if at all giving way (P. P., August 20, 1853, p. 28; Mr. Parke's letter; Sir John Bowring, p. 23,) to an increased knowledge of foreigners and facility of conveyance; but we must not shrink from stating our conviction that the present emigration ought not to be carried on at all if we are to give up the hope that a female emigration may follow it at no distant period, and that every year during which that emigration is deferred involves great moral evils.

In treating this question, therefore, we are to consider (if the emigration is to go on), not whether any particular proposal is open to objection, which is unfortunately inevitable, but what steps the Government is authorized, and if authorized bound to adopt to arrest or mitigate a pressing danger.

We have endeavoured, both from the reports printed for Parliament, and from communications with those conversant with the country, to ascertain the real position of females in China, without which the difficulties of the case can hardly be appreciated. We are told that a Chinese, even of the labouring class, is usually betrothed as a child by his parents to a girl who ultimately, but by no choice of his own, becomes his wife. This first wife is of the small footed or "respectable" class; but there is another class of women, the large footed, who are principally slaves. These are also taken as additional wives by those who have the means of purchasing and supporting them, and the marriages thus contracted we understand to be of as permanent a nature as those which follow on betrothal.

But the state of Chinese society and morals is such that a large number of females (who would otherwise probably be destroyed) are purchased before they are of an age to know their parents (otherwise, as a Chinese observed to us, they would run away home) by procuresses, and are brought up with a view to being either sold as wives or hired as prostitutes. This wretched trade appears scarcely to be considered as degrading in China; and we are informed that a Chinese who has the requisite means will without hesitation proceed to an establishment of this kind, and purchase a wife from it, without reference to her previous life.

Such being the habits of the country, we are told that it is highly improbable that parents would sell their children for expatriation, but that a Government bounty upon married couples would no doubt give occasion to purchases and marriages of this kind. And, whatever may be thought of the state of morality which renders this possible, we cannot but point out that, as far as the woman is concerned, the result will be to raise her from the state of slavery under Chinese to that of freedom under British law, and from such prospects as were then before her to the position of a wife; nor is such a transaction open to the objection to which even the redemption of slaves in Africa is justly liable, namely, that it is an indirect and powerful premium on first reducing them to slavery. If it had any effect at all of this kind it would operate to discourage infanticide.

We cannot help hoping that these considerations will be held to constitute a substantial difference between the proceedings recommended by Mr. White and the slave trade.

But the particular point to which we are anxious to draw the Duke of Newcastle's attention is this: female emigration appears to us a moral necessity. The emigration of the only class of women who are not objects of purchase in China is not to be expected. The direct agency of Government in purchasing any is of course out of the question, and much more that wholesale purchase of women which has been more than once thrown out. Almost equally impossible is it that any emigrant, who, from the nature of the case is a pauper, should be or have been able to procure a wife of the lower and purchaseable class. If, therefore, emigrants may not receive from Government the means of obtaining

wives, according to the custom of their country, it is difficult to see what escape is in prospect from the mischiefs of a male emigration. BRITISH GUIANA.

We presume that the letter of Mr. Addington will be considered as closing the question for the present; but we hope that if we are instructed to appoint an emigration officer at Hong Kong we may be allowed to direct him to inquire carefully into the subject, and to report whether in his opinion any means exist of commencing female emigration generally, and in particular whether it would be possible to enable emigrants to obtain wives, without running the risk of inflicting on the women expatriation without their consent, in which risk we presume the similarity between the proposed transaction and the slave trade consists.

The question of course occurs, whether an emigration which presents an alternative of such difficulties should be continued at all; nor would it be easy to rest under the responsibility of conducting it, but for considerations which, though obvious, we would venture to call to mind.

As regards China this emigration is to transfer thousands, and may result in transferring hundreds of thousands, from a country in which the pressure of population renders famine not unfrequent and female infanticide habitual, to one in which their physical well-being is, humanly speaking, certain, and where we may venture to hope they will be brought within the reach of fresh influences from law and religion.

Enclosure 4 in No. 16. Encl. 4 in No. 16.

EXTRACT of LETTER from H. MERIVALE, Esquire, to E. HAMMOND, Esquire, dated June 12, 1854.

THE observations of the Commissioners on the proposal for offering bounties on married couples, or advances to emigrants to enable them to marry, appear to the Duke of Newcastle to be deserving of Lord Clarendon's fullest consideration. It is stated by the Commissioners, that women of the large-footed class are habitually bought by procuresses as slaves, and either hired out as prostitutes or sold as wives. It is possible that these women, through their ignorance, may desire rather to remain in China as slaves and prostitutes than to be married and free in a British colony; and it will perhaps be contended that it is right and proper to respect their preference; but, if so, they will remain in their own country subject to every species of pernicious restraint and oppression, in order that they may be spared a constraint which would be for their benefit and for their best interests.

I am directed to enclose to you, for Lord Clarendon's information, a copy of a Despatch which his Grace has addressed to the Governors of Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad, and Mauritius. His Grace thinks it necessary to warn the colonies concerned in the emigration from the East that it cannot be permitted to proceed upon the present footing as to disparity of the sexes. 12th June 1854. Vide pages 44, 243, and 270.

No. 17. No. 17.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 3.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 19, 1854.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with copy of one from Mr. Taylor, the emigration agent at Madeira, reporting that the Portuguese Government had restricted the number of emigrants who would be allowed to be shipped to two for every five tons ship's register, computing as adults all above six years, and including ship's crew. All vessels carrying upwards of thirty adults to carry a surgeon. Enclosure. 8th June 1854.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Encl. in No. 17.

Enclosure in No. 17.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
June 8, 1854.

SIR,

WE enclose the copy of a letter which we have received from Mr. Taylor, the emigration agent at Madeira, in which he expresses his fear that emigration from that island to Jamaica will be stopped by the Portuguese regulation which requires passengers to be shipped in no greater proportion than two persons above six years of age for every five tons.

We can only express our regret that the Portuguese Government should enforce a provision which is so wholly unnecessary for any sanitary purpose, and which can only have the result of stopping emigration altogether, or encouraging a clandestine traffic.

In our report of the 29th of July we stated facts which seemed to show conclusively that this stringent regulation was not required, and we learnt by the correspondence forwarded to us in your letter of the 14th December 1853 that these facts had been urged upon the Portuguese Government without effect. We do not see, therefore, that the Duke of Newcastle can take any further steps to procure the removal of these obstacles to emigration.

We have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

Sub-Encl. to Encl. in No. 17.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 17.

Madeira, May 22, 1854.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 8th instant, conveying to me authority from the Duke of Newcastle to send to Jamaica by such vessels as I may from time to time be able to procure, emigrants of a suitable age, at a bounty not exceeding 7*l.* sterling per adult, including all outlay for passports, clothing, and other expenses; also that can be had as to the suitableness of the vessels and other requirements; the emigration to be conducted, as far as circumstances may admit, on similar terms as for British Guiana.

In reply I beg to state that my best exertions shall be used to carry out the above instructions to the best of my ability.

There is no lack of suitable people, and, with conveyances at hand, I could in a very short time send forward several hundreds. Unfortunately, however, an order was received here a few days ago, from the Minister of Marine at Lisbon, doing away with the emigration regulations established by the late Governor, and restricting the number of emigrants allowable to be shipped to two for every five tons ship's register, computing as adults all above six years of age, and including ship's crew; all vessels carrying upwards of thirty adults to carry a surgeon.

Under such unreasonable and prohibitory restrictions it can never answer for vessels to come here for full cargoes of emigrants; and the only practicable plan is, for ships proceeding to Jamaica to leave sufficient space 'tween decks for about thirty people; and, with their owners permission, to call here for them, and which I make known by this conveyance through the proper channel.

These arbitrary measures on the part of the Portuguese authorities is the more extraordinary, in face of the distress and poverty existing among the peasantry of this island, and daily becoming worse from want of employment, and a repetition of the vine disease this year, which is already showing itself.

Further, about six months ago I was requested by the British consul here to answer sundry queries regarding emigration matters, at the instance and for the information of our ambassador at Lisbon, with the view, I believe, of diminishing the expenses of the poor people's parish papers and passports, and of affording further facilities to legal emigration, thus frustrating clandestine emigration, which these prohibitory measures only serve to promote. I was on the point of closing for a Portuguese vessel to take on about 160 people to Jamaica, but which I am now prevented from doing by the obnoxious order above alluded to.

I have taken the liberty of stating these facts, for the information of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, in order that they may, if they deem fit, bring the same to the notice of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, in the hope some arrangement may be come to with the Portuguese Government for the better regulation of emigration from this island. Distress and poverty, as I have stated above, are daily increasing, and some thousands of our peasantry must yet emigrate, either legally or illegally, in quest of employment and subsistence, which they cannot obtain here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES TAYLOR,
Emigration Agent for Jamaica.

S. Walcott, Esq.,
&c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of DESPATCH from Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 7.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 26, 1854.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with copy of one from Mr. Caird, explaining why he has not been able to send the full complement of Coolies to the West Indies during the last season.

Enclosure. 15th June 1854.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Encl. in No. 18.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office, June 15, 1854.

SIR,

WE beg to enclose, for the information of the Secretary of State, the copy of a letter which we have received from Mr. Caird, explaining the circumstances which led to the failure to send the full complement of Coolies from India to the West Indies during the last season.

2. It will be seen that Mr. Caird attributes the diminished supply of labourers to an indisposition on the part of a large number of Coolies to engage themselves for so long a period as ten years' servitude, and to the circumstances that the returned Coolies did not speak very favourably of their residence in the West Indies.

3. On the subject of compelling parents of Coolie children born in the colony to defray the expenses of their return passage, alluded to in the 5th paragraph of Mr. Caird's letter, we had the honour to report on the 29th ultimo.

4. We would suggest that copies of Mr. Caird's letter should be communicated to the colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad.

We have, &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 18.

Sub-Encl. to Encl. in No. 18.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta, April 18, 1854.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th February last, requesting me, in the event of the number of labourers despatched to the West India colonies in the past season having fallen short of the number ordered, viz., 3,500, that I would in such case furnish the Board with a statement of the means which I had taken to procure emigrants, and also the causes, if any, which had operated to prevent my sending the full number required.

2. In reply I have to observe, that at the commencement of the season I made advances, as usual, to recruiters for the purpose of proceeding into the provinces to collect labourers with families, engaging to pay them for their trouble a fixed rate per head for every soul embarked.

3. I regret to state, however, that labourers were not forthcoming to the exten which I had anticipated, and out of those which reached the depôt a large number most positively refused to go to the West Indies for ten years, but they gave me to understand they were willing to engage for five, and not for a longer period. I lost, therefore, many of the best description, in consequence of the new rule.

4. I had also hopes in the beginning of the season of obtaining a number of Coolies through the agency of men who had come back from the West Indies, but they also failed me, and I am inclined to think that had the reports which return men circulated through the districts from which the Coolies are drawn been more tempting that a number of people would have come down of their own accord, unassisted.

5. These causes limited my supply of labourers, and I was consequently unable to despatch a larger number of emigrants than what I did get off in the early part of the season; and at the latter end, when I had a sufficient number remaining over to fill at least one ship more, I could not have engaged a vessel for their conveyance for less than 20*l.* to 25*l.* per head, at which price it could never have repaid the colony to have imported labourers.

6. The Government of Trinidad have recently adopted a system when sending back return emigrants which will doubtless create a most prejudicial influence among intending emigrants, that is, of making the parents pay for the back passages of such children as

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may have been born in the colony during their term of service. I did everything in my power to obviate the ill-feeling which a number had against the colony, by presenting them with small sums of money to defray their road expenses to their respective districts, and I believe that this had the best possible effect.

7th. The Bengal Government have addressed the colonial authorities on this subject, with a view of its being discontinued for the future; and I trust the colonists will see how much it is against their interests sending back people who are dissatisfied with the colony, and who have had demands made upon them which they were totally unprepared for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. CAIRD,
Emigration Agent.

S. Walcott, Esq.,
&c. &c.

No. 19.

No. 19.

COPY of DESPATCH from Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 8.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 26, 1854.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 22d April, No. 5.,* with its enclosures, with reference to the provision of funds for defraying the expenses of future immigration into British Guiana, and I transmit to you a copy of a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners on the subject.

* Page 152.

12th June 1854.

I have to acquaint you that I have authorized the Commissioners to take up two ships for the conveyance of Coolies to British Guiana, and to instruct Mr. Caird to send two more, as they have suggested.

With reference to 7th and following passages of your Despatch, commenting on certain passages in the report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners which was forwarded by me in my predecessor's Despatch of the 16th March last, I have to acquaint you, that you have not correctly interpreted the passages which you quote from that report.

The Commissioners, as you will find, did not suggest, nor did the Duke of Newcastle, as I am informed, understand their suggestion, as importing that they should not incur liabilities beyond the amount of money actually in their hands, but only that due and legal provision should have been made for it, and the faith of the Combined Court should have been pledged to produce the amount when required.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 19.

Encl. in No. 19.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
June 12, 1854.

SIR,

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 30th ultimo, enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Governor of British Guiana respecting the provision of funds for future immigration, with the following enclosures:—(1.) The report of the committee of ways and means, which contains in the last pages a statement of the total amount required for immigration, and the proposed means of raising it; (2.) The usual Tax Act; (3.) A letter of the financial accountant upon our own reports of 9th of March last, respecting the state of the guaranteed loan fund; and (4.) A Minute read by Mr. Wodehouse to the Court of Policy, in which the whole question of immigration is brought before them.

2. This Minute appears to contemplate the following expenditure:

	$		£
2,500 Coolies at 14*l.* - - -	168,000	=	35,000
1,000 Chinese at 24*l.* - - -	115,200	=	24,000
2,500 (query 2,000) Portuguese at 6*l.* -	57,600	=	12,000
Expenses in the colony and collection -	26,400	=	5,500
	367,800	=	76,500

3. The committee of ways and means calculate the sum required for back passages, and for the introduction of 6,000 Coolie, Chinese, and Portuguese labourers, at not less than 370,000 dollars, for which they provide as follows:—

	$.
Cash balance	36,379
Old contract dues and notes of hand	17,200
Re-indentures	7,500
Half-bounty paid by employers	55,000
Produce of export tax	38,000
Charge on rum duties	120,000
Balance of guaranteed loan, after commuting return passages for 1854 to the extent apparently of 131,000 dollars	96,000
	370,079

equal to about 77,000*l.* Or the estimate may be stated rather more summarily, and in English money, thus:—

	£
Oriental immigration	59,000
Portuguese immigration	12,000
Miscellaneous expenses	5,000
Commutations ($131,000)	27,000
	103,000

For which provision is to be made as follows:—

	£
Residue of guaranteed loan fund ($131,000 + 96,000)	47,000
To be raised in the colony ($370,000 — 96,000)	57,000
	104,000

4. These estimates will probably be modified by the Court of Policy, and it therefore appears premature to do more than observe, that the 24,000*l.* provided for Chinese emigration will not be wanted, as it is evidently impracticable to carry on Chinese emigration this season, at least through the agency of this Board; that we do not see any provision for back passages, though alluded to by the committee of ways and means; and (as we shall shortly point out) that the balance of the guaranteed loan fund available for this year's emigration is a little above the estimate of the committee, namely, about 51,000*l.*

5. There is a further question, to which Mr. Wodehouse draws special attention, viz., whether this Board should be authorized to incur liabilities beyond the amount of money in our hands; but this, also, it will be more convenient to discuss when the scheme of the British Guiana legislature is fully before us. At present we shall only touch on it so far as it bears on our immediate proceedings.

6. The following is at present the state of the guaranteed loan fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Cash in the hands of the Board	1,523	17	2
Exchequer bills, exclusive of interest	7,300	0	0
Cash at the Bank	11,070	0	0
Cost of back passages per "Sandford," to be received from Loan Commissioners	2,604	12	0
Still to be raised (taken at par)	50,000	0	0
	71,498	9	2

And the following are our liabilities for last year's emigration:—

	£	s.	d.
Freight of "Clifton"	3,314	4	0
,, "Shand," "Sandford," and "Bucephalus," (say)	12,000	0	0
Contingencies, expenses in India, &c.	5,000	0	0
	20,314	4	0

leaving about 51,000*l.* applicable to future emigration. Of this sum, however, about 12,000*l.* may be considered as already appropriated to the cost of the "Bellairs," "Southampton," and "Royal George," which are taken up for the Cooley emigration. About 39,000*l.*, therefore, remain available for the purpose of immigration.

7. It appears to us primâ facie desirable that this sum, raised under imperial guarantee, should be appropriated to meet liabilities incurred by this Board (those, namely, of oriental emigration and back passages), and that the local expenditure in respect of Portuguese emigration, commutations, and other matters should be met from the colonial revenue;

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but, waiving the general question for the present, it can, we think, scarcely be wrong to proceed at once, on the strength of this fund, and of the evident wishes of the colonists, with the chartering of Cooley ships (at the rate of two a month, at which Mr. Caird advises that they should be chartered in England,) for the later months of the season, and to authorize him to take up ships for the earlier months. We have already engaged the ships for November and December (one for Trinidad and three for British Guiana), and we would now propose, with the Duke of Newcastle's permission, to take up ourselves the two January ships, and to authorize Mr. Caird to take up two ships to leave Calcutta in September or October. The cost of these four vessels may be from 15,000*l.* to 20,000*l.*, which is 19,000*l.* short of the funds remaining available for the purpose.

8. As time is of some importance, we shall issue advertisements on Thursday next, inviting tenders for the following Thursday, unless we receive contrary instructions from the Secretary of State; and as Indian letters must be posted on the 18th or 23rd, we shall hope before that time to receive authority to send the necessary instructions to Mr. Caird. Any further steps may be deferred without inconvenience till we learn the final conclusions of the Court of Policy.

9. As, however, the sum of 51,000*l.* now reported as available exceeds by 31,000*l.* the estimate contained in our report of April 18th, and by 11,000*l.* that of the financial accountant, we wish to explain that this does not arise from any miscalculations.

10. The difference of 20,000*l.* between our own estimate and that of Mr. Pollard arises from the following circumstances:—(1.) We had estimated the expense of Cooley emigration (including expenses in India) at 37,000*l.*, on the possible supposition that all the Coolies ordered would be sent out; pointing out, however, that if this were not the case the balance would be increased. Mr. Pollard had the means of knowing that only six ships would be despatched, at the cost (excluding expenses in India) of about 24,118*l.* The difference is nearly 13,000*l.* Next, as the Act of Parliament of 16 Vict. cap. 4. authorizes payment from the guaranteed loan fund of back passages, we had no reason to expect repayment from the colony of the expenses of the return Cooley ships the "Thetis" and "Sandford." Such repayment, however, has been made to the extent of nearly 5,000*l.* Thirdly, we thought it safe to allow 6,000*l.* for bills drawn by the Lieutenant-Governor, and other contingencies. But few such bills have been drawn, and the contingencies have not been large. And, lastly, Mr. Pollard estimates at 53,000*l.* the unraised amount of 50,000*l.*, which we had thought it most prudent (at the commencement of a war) to estimate at par. These circumstances it will be seen more than account for the difference between the estimates.

11. The further sum of 11,000*l.* now stated to be available is exactly the amount allowed for the passages of Chinese emigrants, none of whom, as the Duke of Newcastle is aware, have been or will be despatched.

We have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

H. Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

No. 20.

No. 20.

Copy of DESPATCH from Sir George Grey to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 17.)

Sir, Downing Street, July 25, 1854.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 9th May last, No. 15,* transmitting extracts from the minutes of the proceedings of the Court of Policy, from which I learn that it is the wish of the court that emigration from China to British Guiana should be discontinued, and that during the ensuing season 4,200 Coolies should be despatched from India to British Guiana.

* Page 157.

I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, in which they report that they have chartered five additional vessels for the conveyance of Coolies; and I have further to acquaint you, that I have authorized them to instruct Mr. Caird to engage shipping for 1,000 Coolies in addition.

11th July 1854.

You will understand, however, that in sanctioning the emigration of this additional number of Coolies I have not been unmindful of the views of my predecessor, as stated in his Despatch † of the 12th June, and in which I have to express my entire concurrence as to the necessity for all emigration from Asia to the West Indies and to Mauritius being brought to a speedy termination, unless the disproportion of sexes which has hitherto prevailed can be rectified. I have given my consent to this further importation of 1,000

† Page 44.

immigrants, only in consideration of the arrangements for the ensuing season having been made, and the expectations entertained respecting them sanctioned.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 20.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
July 11, 1854.

Sir,

We have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th ultimo, enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Governor of British Guiana on the subject of immigration into that colony from China and India.

2. In respect to immigration from China, it appears from the proceedings of the Court of Policy, enclosed in Mr. Wodehouse's Despatch that the court propose to discontinue it for the present, as being too expensive, but express their readiness to bear their proper share of expense for any arrangements already entered into. This decision we were already prepared for. Indeed, as we have stated in our report of the 12th ultimo, there would have been no probability, even if the colony had continued to wish for these emigrants, of our being able to procure them at present on anything like reasonable terms. In regard to the expense of engagements already entered into, it fortunately happens that the principal of such expenses, viz., Mr. White's salary, will now be put an end to by his return to this country. We shall take an early opportunity of now winding up the accounts connected with Chinese emigration.

3. With respect to immigration from India, the Court of Policy, calculating the balance in our hands at 40,000*l.*, express a strong desire that at least 4,200 Coolies should be despatched to British Guiana from India during the season 1854–5, or as many of that number as may be found practicable, regard being had to the amount of available funds and the present rate of freights. In our report of the 12th ultimo we showed that the balance in our hands, including the amount remaining to be and since raised, was actually 51,000*l.*; and we proposed, in conformity with Mr. Caird's suggestion, to take up ships in this country for the latter part of the season, at the rate of two a month, leaving him to engage the earlier ships in Calcutta. We then reported that we had taken up three ships for British Guiana and one for Trinidad. We have since engaged five additional ships to sail on the dates specified in the accompanying schedule. This is one more than we had proposed to engage, but we ventured to take this step without waiting for previous authority from the Secretary of State, because one of the ships, the "Apolline," which was offered to us at a lower price than any of the others, was a very small ship, and we were able to make up the deficiency which would otherwise have arisen from her size by another small ship, the "Thetis," also obtained on reasonable terms. The result is that these two ships will not do more than represent one of the larger ships engaged for the other months; and we trust, under these circumstances, that we shall not be considered to have exceeded our duty in taking them up.

4. We calculate that the vessels which we have taken up will probably carry about 2,300 statute adults; and the two ships which, in conformity with Sir G. Grey's directions, we have instructed Mr. Caird to take up, will probably carry about 700 more, making a total of 3,000 statute adults. This is considerably short of the number which the Court of Policy recommend, but as we cannot feel certain that Mr. Caird would be able to procure a larger number of emigrants we do not think it would be safe for us to engage a larger number of ships in this country. He might, however, be instructed, if Sir G. Grey sees fit, to take up additional ships for the later months, if he should see his way clearly to fill them.

5. Including the expenses in India, the cost of the Coolies for whom we have taken up shipping may be expected to amount to about 15*l.* per adult, or in round numbers about 35,000*l.*, leaving about 16,000*l.* to be expended on the ships which Mr. Caird may take up at Calcutta. There would consequently be no difficulty, so far as regards the question of funds, to take up ships in Calcutta for 1,000 Coolies, in addition to the number of 2,300 for whom vessels have been engaged in this country.

6. If the wishes of the Court of Policy are acceded to, he should be directed to take up shipping for 1,900 instead of 1,000 Coolies. For the additional expense, it would be necessary to rely on funds to be furnished hereafter from the colonial revenue. On this point we have only to call attention to Mr. Wodehouse's renewed suggestion, that Her Majesty's Government should not insist on funds being provided in advance for purposes connected with this emigration, and his assurance that there is no disinclination in the colony to meet just liabilities.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
C. Alexander Wood.

Sub-Enclosure.

Ship.	Tonnage. Old.	Tonnage. New.	Colony.	Contract Price. £ s. d.	Can legally carry.	To be off the Town of Calcutta.	To be placed at the Disposal of the Government Emigration Agent.	Brokers.
Southampton -	—	971	Demerara -	11 19 0	366	15th Oct. 1854	1st Nov. 1854	M'Leod, Allport, and Co.
Bellairs - -	—	609	Do. -	13 17 0	—	25th Oct. 1854	25th Nov. 1854	Lachlans and Co.
Royal George -	—	608	Do. -	13 9 0	241½	15th Nov. 1854	15th Dec. 1854	Hotchkin and Mobbs.
Devonshire - -	—	831	Do. -	12 12 0	293	25th Nov. 1854	25th Dec. 1854	M'Leod, Allport, and Co.
Assaye - -	—	847	Do. -	12 18 6	320	1st Dec. 1854	1st Jan. 1855	Phillips, Shaw, and Co.
Apolline - -	—	453	Do. -	11 19 0	198	1st Jan. 1855	20th Jan. 1855	Devitt and Moore.
Henry Moore -	—	1,223	Do. -	12 9 10	—	15th Dec. 1854	15th Jan. 1855	Carter and Co.
Thetis - -	—	550	Do. -	12 2 4	—	15th Jan. 1855	15th Feb. 1855	Lachlans and Co.

No. 21.

No. 21.

Copy of DESPATCH from Sir George Grey to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 33.)

Sir, Downing Street, September 13, 1854.

1. I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 7th June last, No. 21.,* transmitting an ordinance passed by yourself and the Court of Policy "for the amendment and consolidation of the laws for the encouragement "of immigration, and for the general regulation of immigrants." I have also received your Despatch, No. 29., of the 25th of the same month, in explanation of some of the provisions of the ordinance.

* Page 159.

2. I have been most desirous to give credit to yourself and the Court of Policy for an intention to frame the various and complicated provisions of this law in such a spirit as to give effect to the views of Her Majesty's Government, or, where this was not done, to present a full and candid exposition of the omissions and deviations, and of the reasons for them; but with every disposition to consider the provisions of the ordinance in the most favourable light, and to interpose no unnecessary obstacle to its being brought into operation at an early date, I have, nevertheless, felt myself precluded from submitting the ordinance to the Queen for Her Majesty's confirmation in its present shape. I proceed to call your attention to the provisions to which I mainly object, as well as to others which appear to require amendment.

3. 1st. With regard to the importation and allotment of immigrants, I find that the ordinance, besides giving to the Governor the usual power of proclaiming bounties, enables him (sec. 5.) to license private persons to import Chinese or Coolies under contracts to themselves, on bounties of $60 for Chinese and $30 for Coolies, taking such security as he shall think fit "for carrying out the object of such licence," clause 13. providing that contracts of service made out of the colony with Indians or Africans shall not be good unless by permission of Her Majesty's Government previously had and obtained.

4. The sanction thus given to the importation of Asiatics and Africans by private parties is by no means free from objection; but, agreeing with you in opinion that the dangers which might be apprehended are sufficiently guarded against by requiring the concurrence of the Governor to such importation, I do not propose to call for any amendment of the first of these clauses. You will, however, understand that you are not at liberty to issue any such licence, or to authorize such contracts of service with Indians or Africans, unless in pursuance of some scheme of immigration to which you shall first have obtained the consent of the Home Government.

5. In the case of Chinese I have some doubt as to the effect of clauses 14 and 19. It would appear that a Chinese labourer entering into a contract for five years (under clause 14) out of the colony of British Guiana would be

obliged, under clause 19, to serve for two years more, or seven years in all, unless he should pay a sum of money (5*l.* or 2*l.* 10*s.*) on claiming to be released from his re-indenture. This may not have been the intention of the ordinance, but the clauses are susceptible of this construction, and an amendment will therefore be necessary, as it is clearly objectionable that any Chinese immigrant should be subject to compulsory contracts, even with the power of redeeming himself from them after the completion of his original five years' residence in the colony under indenture.

6. 2d. With respect to the provisions of the ordinance for regulating the relative duties of employers and servants, I regret to find that, whilst the very stringent though necessary provisions for keeping immigrants to work and preventing vagrancy are retained, the most important clauses of the previous laws, which impose penalties on the employer for the nonperformance of his duties, are silently expunged. I refer to the following provisions, which form part of Ordinance No. 2. of 1853, clause 6. "That if any employer shall illuse "any person, or shall not deliver to any person any article stipulated for, and "which by the contract of service are to be furnished by the employer to the "servant," "such employer shall forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding $50" "as to the convicting justice shall seem fit." Clause 13. "That upon any "complaint made by any employer or servant, the justice, &c., &c., may "discharge such employer or servant from his contract of service." Clause 14. "That if it shall be made to appear to the Governor that any employer of "any indentured immigrant, &c. shall have been convicted of gross or repeated "illusage or illtreatment of any such immigrant, the Governor may direct the "immigrant so illused or illtreated, and also, if he shall think fit, every other "immigrant indentured to such employer, to be released and discharged from "all further service to such employer."

7. It is true that the 47th clause of the present ordinance authorizes the immigration agent to enter upon any plantation to inquire into any complaint by immigrants or employers, but it does not authorize him to decide upon such complaint, still less to impose any penalty on the employer, or discharge immigrants from his service; and the 29th clause pointedly confines the magistrate's power of annulling contracts to verbal or unwritten ones.

8. I cannot but observe that this tacit repeal of this part of the masters' and servants' law which relates to the protection of immigrants from illusage is remarkable, and requires some explanation from yourself, the more especially because I find that my predecessor's Despatch of the 16th January of this year, No. 175., on which the present ordinance is founded, contains the following passage: "It will of course be necessary that the stipendiary "magistrate should possess the power of cancelling his (the immigrant's) "contract, and of transferring him to another master, on any well-founded "cause of complaint or proved breach of contract; and it would be well that to "meet unforeseen contingencies the Governor should be invested with a power "of determining contracts at his pleasure, similar to that given by the Trinidad "Ordinance, No. 3. of 1848."

9. In these views of the Duke of Newcastle I have to express my entire concurrence; and so necessary do I consider it that these large powers of cancelling contracts at pleasure should be placed in the hands of the local government, that without an amendment of the ordinance so framed as to carry out the intentions of Her Majesty's Government as thus expressed, as well as a re-enactment of the penal provisions to which I have referred, I shall feel myself imperatively called upon to withhold my sanction from the law.

10. 3d. The disclaimer, contained in clause 49, of any obligation on the part of the colony to provide passages for Coolies returning to India at their own expense, is inconsistent with the expectation entertained by the Court of East India Directors, when acceding to the extension of the period of residence from five to ten years, that the Colonial Government should make arrangements to afford the Coolies every facility for returning to India, at their own expense, after the expiration of their first five years of industrial residence. All that was required by the Home Government was, that the Government officers at home or in the colonies should act in fact as the agents of the Coolies in procuring them back passages, on the best terms that circumstances would admit; not that any pecuniary obligation should be incurred by the colony. As, however, the authority of the Secretary of State will probably be sufficient to secure

BRITISH GUIANA.

to the Coolie this right to return to his own country, I will leave the matter to the consideration of the Court of Policy; but Her Majesty's Government will undoubtedly look to the local Government for seeing that this right is not made a delusive one.

11. 4th. Clause 51, to which your Despatch, No. 29, has more immediate reference, provides that the Coolie shall not receive a free back passage until he has either completed 10 years' indentured service, or contributed towards the expense of it a sum of 35 dollars. To the latter provision I regret to say that I am unable to give my sanction, without, as has already been explained to you, the express consent of the Indian authorities; and as yet I have received no intimation of the result of the reference made to them on the subject. It is possible that the decision of the Government of India may reach you by the time that the Court of Policy will be prepared to consider the amendment of the Ordinance. Should such not be the case, I think that the clause should be so framed as that in making a payment of 35 dollars the condition on which a return passage can be obtained, it should be made contingent on such a condition receiving the consent of the Indian Government, with the alternative, in the event of such consent not being obtained, of five annual contracts, or the payment of 2*l.* 10*s.* for each year for which the Coolie shall not have worked under indenture.

12. 5th. Clause 54 authorizes the postponement of the Coolie's right to a back passage until after an industrial residence of a second period of 10 years, on receiving a payment of 50 dollars. This is objectionable, and would, in fact, be tantamount to the absolute commutation of a right on the continuance of which the Court of East India Directors have always expressed a strong and decided opinion. At the same time, should the Court of Policy attach importance to the provision, I should be prepared to submit, for the consideration of the Court, whether such an enactment might be assented to, if confined to the cases of married Coolies and their wives.

13. In conclusion I have to remind you that it is, of course, necessary the Court of Policy should be apprized, when measures for the promotion of immigration are before them, that the sanction of Her Majesty's Government to the continuance of the immigration will be inevitably contingent (as explained in my predecessor's despatch, No. 43,* of the 12th of June last) on means being found for introducing a due proportion of female immigrants.

* Page 44.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

No. 22.

No. 22.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir George Grey to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 35.)

Sir, Downing Street, September 18, 1854.

I have received your Despatch of the 31st July last, No. 45,† in acknowledgment of my predecessor's of the 12th June, No. 43, informing you that as a condition of the continuance of immigration from India and China, a due proportion of females must be introduced.

† Page 167.

It would appear from your Despatch that you have overlooked the fact that that Despatch applied to Coolies as well as to Chinese; and I must therefore call your attention to this more extended scope of the views adopted by Her Majesty's Government.

I should be glad to know whether the Colonial authorities have any methods to suggest by which such an immigration of Coolie women would be secured as would justify the continued importation of male Coolies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

No. 23.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 48.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 8, 1854.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Hong Kong, relating to the emigration of Chinese from that colony.

No. 23. 5 June 1854.

With respect to Mr. Caine's suggestion, that a local Ordinance should be passed in Hong Kong for regulating this emigration, I have to observe that no such law could dispense with the imperative provisions of the Imperial Passengers' Act.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Encl. in No. 23.

Victoria, Hong-Kong, 5th June 1854.

MY LORD DUKE,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt your Grace's Despatch, No. 11, of 16th March last, giving cover to sundry letters from Mr. White, lately West India Emigration Agent in this Colony, and the correspondence relating to these letters.

2. Your Grace desires me to instruct the Surveyor-General to place himself in communication with Mr. White respecting the establishment of a depôt for Chinese emigrant Coolies destined for the West Indies, and to report my own opinion as to the expediency of such a measure. Mr. White having, as your Grace will have been apprized, returned to England at the termination of the season favourable to emigration, I can only comply with the second requirement.

3. I am decidedly of opinion with Mr. White that if the emigration to the West Indies from this place is to be systematic and constant, it cannot be conducted in so creditable a manner as the Government would wish without the establishment of a depôt on shore or afloat: the former would probably be the least expensive both as to its original cost and in regard to the establishment necessary for its due regulation.

4. It is difficult to imagine how, without the aid of such an establishment, labourers can be selected of such a class as by their introduction would benefit the Colonies, for this must necessarily require time; nor how, when such selection has been made, the Coolies can be prevented from absconding after the receipt of the advance wages that are always given as a part of the inducement to emigrate. The ordinary lay days of a ship chartered for the voyage cannot be sufficient time, nor the ship a suitable place for these preliminary arrangements: and the fact that such a depôt has been found necessary both at Macao, where emigration is in private hands, and in Calcutta, where it is under the supervision of the Government, seems to strengthen the supposition that it would also be a requisite here.

5. Such an establishment would also seem necessary to realize Mr. White's anticipations of success with regard to inducing married men and families to emigrate. Unquestionably it is most desirable that in emigration of every kind the proportion of male and female emigrants be as nearly as possible equal. When this is the case the removal of labourers from a country where the wages of labour are barely sufficient for their scanty subsistence to another country where labour is in great demand, and the climate at the same time suitable, must be a source of mutual benefit, and a work of high philanthropy. To accomplish this equalization of sexes among Chinese emigrants, we must tolerate Chinese ignorance and Chinese prejudice in regard to matrimony, which we shall find on examination to be after all not so far different from our own notions as might at first sight be supposed. Mr. White in advocating the purchase of women might with equal truth have used a term less abhorrent to our notions of freedom, and less suggestive of abuse: for in reality the money and presents given to the parents of the bride are considered to be for the purpose of enabling them to send her to her husband's house provided with a suitable wardrobe and in a manner becoming their station. Perhaps the question propounded by the parents to the intending husband, what sum of money he was willing to disburse to induce them to place their daughter at his disposal might not to European ears appear more indecorous than would to Chinese ears the converse of the question as propounded by intending husbands in Europe to parents, what sum of money they were willing to add as a dowry to their daughter to induce him to place himself at her disposal. And both in China and England mercenary considerations in such engagements are admitted to be abnormal and improper.

6. It is true that such a bounty on marriage as that proposed might induce some to select as their wives prostitutes from the numerous brothels within their reach, but the

BRITISH GUIANA.

better the class of emigrants selected the less probability of this contingency; and even should its occurrence be certain, I cannot look upon it with any degree of apprehension: on the contrary, I believe that very many of this unfortunate class of females, were such an opportunity presented to them of escaping from their terrible bondage, would most gladly avail themselves of it and become thereafter grateful and virtuous wives; for a great number of them, perhaps a large majority, are purchased as slaves in their infancy, and are so trained up for the express purpose of prostitution that their mode of life can scarcely be termed voluntary. Here it is true they are free (and they constantly take advantage of their freedom in this manner), but on the mainland they are, I imagine, utterly without the power, if without the money, to obtain their liberty. I am glad that this subject is occupying the attention of Her Majesty's Government, for I consider it to be one of the greatest importance.

7. The very best stimulant of emigration to the West Indies would be, as Mr. White remarks, the return to China for a season of those who have already emigrated, earned money, and been well treated in the country of their temporary adoption.

8. With regard to the treatment of emigrants on board their ships, the great desideratum is the selection of a good captain, for on him more than on any arrangement that can be made before the departure of the vessel, depend the comfort, health, and good humour of the passengers. For this reason it is most desirable that a sufficient number of ships for the season's emigration be chartered in England.

9. The Passengers' Act seems to me to be unnecessarily stringent in regard to the number that each vessel is allowed to carry. Vessels hence to California, almost without exception, build deck-houses for the accommodation of passengers; and when they find it more profitable than to carry cargo, they lay an orlop deck also for the same purpose. The American Passengers' Act allows this; and the emigration officer (recently appointed, as your Grace was informed by my Despatch, No. 11, of 4th May last), with my sanction, permits the practice to continue, taking care only that fully 12 feet of space be allowed to each adult on the upper decks, and 24 feet on the orlop deck; the height between the decks being six feet. This I consider to be fully sufficient for the preservation of health, and it satisfies both the Chinese passenger and the shipowner; and I see no reason why the same indulgence should not be allowed to ships carrying emigrants to the West Indies. It is obvious that such a relaxation from the stringent provisions of the English Passengers' Act would materially diminish the cost to the Colonies of each emigrant. The great points to be attended to are the seaworthiness and ventilation of the vessel, the quality and quantity of the provisions, and the space allowed to each passenger. If on these the emigration officer satisfy himself, I consider others of minor importance.

10. It would be well, I think, if some local enactment were made to meet the peculiar situation of this place. Under present circumstances, though some effective control is absolutely requisite, the emigration officer is placed in the anomalous position of acting under a law of which he enforces not a great deal more than its general spirit: to carry it out in the letter would, in my view, be productive of nothing but harm. It would simply drive away from our harbour a source of employment and wealth to the colonists, which it should be our anxious endeavour to foster and increase, and would not, at the same time, tend in any way to further the interests of the emigrant or of humanity. Such an enactment I purpose to submit to your Grace at a future time, when we shall have had more experience of what is required; to delay it seems necessary, not only on the score of deficient knowledge, but also that it may if possible be made to square with the intentions of the Emigration Commissioners in regard to the more permanent and systematic establishment of the West Indian emigration, and with further reference to the measures on the same subject, which I am given to understand it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to bring before Parliament at an early period.

11. I would add, in conclusion, that if the Commissioners think fit to employ the emigration officer already appointed here to organize measures for a regular supply to the West India Colonies of Coolie emigrants, instead of sending out a special agent for the purpose, this Government will not object. He is, I believe, quite competent for the task, and from his acquaintance with the language and people peculiarly fitted for it; but his services would be available as a supervisor only. Want of time would compel him to leave much of the details to some trustworthy subordinate. In the former capacity, and as a correspondent of the Emigration Board, I have no doubt his services would be very valuable, and would require for their remuneration a much smaller expenditure than would be necessary in the case of an officer sent from England for the purpose; I make these remarks under the impression that Mr. White does not wish to return to China, and that the Commissioners may have some difficulty in finding a suitable successor. That the emigration can be conducted only during one-half of the year is perhaps an additional reason for the employment as agent of some person not wholly dependent for support upon the emoluments of the office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. CAINE.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 24.

No. 24.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 52.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 15, 1854.

WITH reference to my predecessor's Despatch, in which you were informed that the question of contribution of 35 dollars by Coolie emigrants proceeding to the West Indies towards the payment of the expense of their return passage to India had been submitted to the Government of India, I have to acquaint you, for your information and guidance, that the Indian Government has assented to the proposal.

Mr. Caird, the agent in India, has been instructed to carry this into effect, in the case of all Coolies who may proceed to the West Indies after due notice shall have been given of this new condition, and has further been instructed to take measures for ensuring full communication of it to all intending emigrants.

All future emigrants will also be apprized that they will not be entitled to any public aid towards the expense of their back passages, unless claimed within eighteen months of the time of their becoming due.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

No. 25.

No. 25.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 53.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 15, 1854.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 82,* of the 10th October, enclosing the Ordinance passed by the Court of Policy on the same day "for the amendment and consolidation of the laws for the encouragement of immigration, and for the general regulation of immigrants."

* Page 168.

I have the satisfaction of finding that this law is in conformity with the views and opinions of Her Majesty's Government on this important subject; and I have, therefore to announce to you that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to allow and confirm it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

No. 26.

No. 26.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GGORGE GREY to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 68.)

SIR, Downing Street, January 15, 1855.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, with a report from the Protector of Immigrants at Madras on the ships "Sandford" and "Shand," which has arrived with return Coolies from British Guiana and Trinidad. I also enclose a copy of a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom I directed the letter from the India Board to be referred.

Enclosure 1. 12 Dec. 1854.

Enclosure 2. 5 Jan. 1855.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 26.

Encl. 1 in No 26.

SIR, India Board, December 12, 1854.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for the affairs of India to forward to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Protector of Emigrants at Madras, respecting the Coolies returned from the West Indies by the ships "Sandford" and "Shand."

18 February 1854. Sub-Enclosure.

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The account given by the emigrants of their treatment on the voyage appears to be quite satisfactory; but I have to request that the attention of Sir George Grey may be drawn to the suggestions made in paragraphs 12, 22, 23, and 28 of the enclosed letter, in regard to the diet, clothing, and comfort of return Coolies generally.

I am, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. Redington.

Sub-Encl. to Encl. 1 in No. 26.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 1 in No. 26.

Extract, Fort Saint George, Public.

Consultation of 21st March 1854.

No. 1.

From Captain C. Biden, Protector of Emigrants to the West Indies, to Sir H. C. Montgomery, Bart., Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir, Dated 18th February 1854.

I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, that on the arrival of the emigrant ships as per margin,* there were claims made for remuneration by some of the return Coolies on board each vessel, which I had not then the means of adjusting, and I considered it expedient to await the information required before I made a detailed report to Government of the proceedings on board those ships.

"Sandford" and "Shand."

2. As that difficulty has subsequently been overcome, and shall hereafter be explained, I will now, in the first place, relate the occurrence on board the ship "Sandford." This ship left Demerara on the 10th of August, and arrived here on the 19th of December, as all on board were reported by the commander to be entirely free from any infectious disease. The Coolies were forthwith landed, and inspected before my office, as follows:—

Ship's Name.	Adults.		Children between 1 to 14 years.		Children under 1 year.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Male.	Female.	
"Sandford"	130	43	15	6	4	1	199

3. The commander of the "Sandford" furnished me with an abstract from his log, by which it appears that on her departure from Demerara the usual track was pursued until the limit of variable winds was gained, in latitude 30° 30′ N., and longitude 52° 20′ W., and thence she shaped an easterly course, until such weatherly position was obtained as would ensure passing through the north-east trade wind sufficiently to windward to cross the equator. The "Sandford" crossed the equator on the 24th of September, in longitude 24° W., and arrived in Table Bay on the 21st of October.

4. The traverse of the North Atlantic was most favourable, as the weather continued mild throughout, and the Coolies suffered no ill effects from the change of temperature. Captain Callan states, that whilst at the Cape the Coolies were so much excited, and were so eagerly bent on getting on shore, that he was afraid to grant that indulgence, and the surgeon advised as short a stay as possible, especially as the weather was favourable for despatch. Having therefore provided the Coolies with sheep and vegetables, and with a plentiful supply of water and fresh stock, the "Sandford" sailed from Table Bay on the 23d of October.

5. Captain Callan determined to avoid as much as possible a high southern latitude, as he was apprehensive of the ill effects of severity of cold; but as a heavy easterly gale set in when off Cape Agulhas, which lasted four days, the "Sandford" was driven to 38° 30′ south, and the sudden change of temperature was so severely felt, that four Coolies, who were in a weak state of health for some time, died between the 22d and 26th of October; and whilst in that parallel, three other deaths ensued.

6. It is stated in the abstract that the Coolies suffered much from the cold weather, which they had to sustain till the 20th of November, although they were tolerably well clothed. During the latter part of the passage much rainy weather was experienced, and several of the Coolies, debilitated by their sufferings in the Southern Ocean, were carried off by dysentery.

7. The commander and the surgeon were present during the examination of the Coolies, and much satisfaction was evinced on both sides. The Coolies expressed their grateful acknowledgment for the kind care and attention they had experienced throughout the passage, and declared that they were plentifully supplied with water and provisions, and had not a single complaint to make. The surgeon then pointed out several of the Coolies who had served as cooks, and said he was authorized to pay each man five dollars on the ship's arrival at Madras, which he confidently expected would be advanced by me, and he felt much embarrassed when I assured him that I had no funds at my disposal. The men themselves were very much disappointed; but when I assured them that their claim should

be represented to the Government, and that I had no doubt it would be attended to, they seemed perfectly satisfied.

8. By the ensuing mail I received a letter from S. Walcott, Esq., Secretary to the Colonial Land and Emigration Office, authorizing me to draw upon the Commissioners by bills of thirty days' sight, for the amount of remuneration due to those men who had served as cooks on board the "Sandford" and the "Shand," and then endeavoured to find out where they had gone, and have only just ascertained their respective names and places of abode. I shall therefore draw the amount which is their due, and adopt the best and surest means of transmitting the wages they have respectively earned. This delay would have been avoided if the precaution had been taken of registering their names, and ascertaining whither they were going when those men were at my office. And I regret that such neglect has occurred, because it has led to the lateness of this communication.

9. The surgeon delivered his journal, together with a weekly report, and a summary of occurrences, which were kept with great attention and regularity, and the commander of the "Sandford" closes his remarks by saying, "I regret to say we have lost several of our passengers, for particulars of which I beg to refer you to the surgeon's report, who, in justice to him, I must say has in all ways and at all times been unremitting in his attention to those people;" and this testimony is fully corroborated by the declaration made before me by the Coolies themselves.

10. The following is a list of the casualties which unhappily occurred:—

Date.	Name.	Sex.	Disease.
August 10th	Ramasawmy	Adult Male	Catarrhus Epider.
September 21st	Chickah	Ditto	Colica.
October 22nd	Albert	Male Child	Febris, b.b.
„ 22nd	Kurpoyee	Adult Female	Anasarca.
„ 25th	Ramen	Adult Male	Colica.
„ 26th	Narrainpillay	Ditto	Diarrhœa.
November 1st	Santiago	Ditto	Ditto.
„ 7th	Nagapen	Ditto	Apoplexy.
„ 22nd	Vellien	Ditto	Diarrhœa.
December 3rd	Ramalingum	Ditto	Ditto.
„ 9th	Soobun	Ditto	Anasarca.
„ 11th	Balakistna	Ditto	Diarrhœa.
„ 11th	Mootoosawmy	Ditto	Dysentery.
„ 18th	Ramasawmy	Ditto	Anasarca.
„ 19th	Suckah	Ditto	Ditto.

11. Thus it is shown the several diseases by which death was occasioned, and as the Coolies were tolerably healthy before the ship reached the Cape, there is every reason to believe that sickness was materially aggravated by the sudden and severe effects of cold when the patients were not sufficiently clothed, and had not sufficient stamina to withstand the shock.

12. Amongst the remarks made by the surgeon are the following, which deserve the attention of the Colonial Government:—

Firstly.—The white blankets supplied at Demerara are too small and thin; they are not sufficient to protect the emigrants from cold.

Secondly.—Many of the emigrants complain of being robbed of their warm clothing.

Thirdly.—The Coolies refused to assist the sick, or such as cannot help themselves. Their refusal was at length overcome by promising them each a glass of rum per day; it is recommended that a small remuneration should be authorized for the services of those Coolies as would make themselves useful in this way.

Fourthly.—The emigrants were often allowed to bathe in sea water during the forenoon, which agreed with them remarkably well, and seemed to improve their health.

Fifthly.—The emigrants would not allow even their children to be vaccinated whilst on board from motives of superstition. This ought to be made a compulsory rule to prevent the small pox breaking out on board ship.

Sixthly.—In addition to the medicine supplied, there should be the following:—

Seventhly.—Gray's powder, extract of gentian, cheyretta, sulphuric acid, paregoric elixir, and several hundred leeches, as these are essentially wanting in every Coolie ship.

Eighthly.—The issue of mutton or fresh pork alternately, at least once a week if possible, is very desirable.

Ninthly.—The Coolies seemed to be particularly partial to biscuit, and much preferred it to rice.

13. I have now to relate the proceedings of the "Shand." This vessel left Trinidad on the 20th of August, and arrived here with Coolies for Calcutta and Madras on the 23rd of December; and finding that all on board were in a healthy state, the latter were forthwith

BRITISH GUIANA. landed, and were inspected before my office in the presence of the commander and surgeon, as follows:—

Ship's Name.	Adults.		Children between 1 to 14 years.		Children under 1 year.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Male.	Female.	
"Shand"	79	18	2	2	2	5	108

14. The Coolies presented a more healthy appearance than those landed from the "Sandford," and declared their entire satisfaction with the treatment they had experienced throughout the passage; they made no complaint whatever, and their conduct during the passage was very favourably mentioned by both the commander and the surgeon.

15. The commander detailed the outline of the "Shand's" passage, which was very much the same as the "Sandford's," but more favourable in point of time. She reached the Cape on the 1st of November, and sailed on the 5th. Some of the Coolies were permitted to land, and all were plentifully supplied with fresh meat and vegetables, of which a liberal stock was provided for the passage to Madras.

16. The "Shand" did not go beyond 37° south, and as she escaped the easterly gale experienced by the "Sandford," the sudden change of weather was not so severely felt by the Coolies, and I am glad to say the casualties were but few. There were in all five deaths, two of the Madras, and three of the Bengal Coolies. This may, I think, be partly attributed to the more healthy condition of the Coolies when they embarked, as, from all I have heard, it seems very certain that the climate of Trinidad is much more favourable for the natives of India than Demerara.

17. Captain Christie provided a liberal supply of sheep and vegetables, and pursued his voyage to Calcutta on the 24th of December.

18. The surgeon delivered his medical journal, from which the following are extracts; the most prevalent sickness on board was diarrhœa:—

First.—The Coolies were encouraged to bathe frequently with sea water, which had a beneficial effect.

Second.—The warm clothing was distributed to the Coolies by the surgeon on the 1st of October, comprising a woollen shirt and a cap, and a pair of trousers, to each male and female, together with a blanket.

Third.—Fresh mutton and vegetables were frequently served out, also biscuit, peas, and butter; lime juice, molasses, and spirits were issued during the cold weather.

Fourth.—The Coolies were frequently inspected on deck at 6 A.M.

Fifth.—The Madras Coolies overcame all prejudice with regard to the use of salt beef and pork, but the Bengal Coolies, with few exceptions, would not eat salt meat.

19. In the journal it is repeatedly noticed that the between decks had been fumigated, whitewashed several times, and very carefully kept dry and ventilated. The issue of water and provisions was well attended to, and the system observed throughout is very creditable to the commander and all his officers, and I have much pleasure in bearing the same favourable testimony to the conduct observed by the commander and officers of the "Sandford."

20. There were symptoms of scurvy on board both ships, but that disease was eradicated by the salutary effects of fresh meat and vegetables at Cape of Good Hope; and every ship which has touched at that port with return Coolies has afforded a convincing proof of the beneficial effect of such a deviation.

21. The most trying part of the passage from the West Indies is that long continuance in the Southern Ocean, when, in pursuance of the outward track east of the Cape of Good Hope, the Coolies are exposed to so great a change of temperature; this severe trial would be materially lessened if the Colonial Government would determine to despatch all immigrant vessels to India between the 1st of March and the 1st of July, and direct their respective commanders to adopt the Mozambique channel, whereby they would speedily get beyond the limit of cold weather. This advantageous route was so successfully performed by the emigrant ship "Harkaway," as communicated in my letter to Government, dated the 13th of August last, that I think cannot fail to receive the favourable notice of the Colonial Government.

22. Upon this occasion I have much pleasure and satisfaction in bearing witness to a manifest improvement in the system of clothing and dieting the Coolies, and although it is very desirable to furnish the Coolies with more efficient warm clothing and a better quality of blankets, yet they were so much better provided in both the "Sandford" and the "Shand" than in the earlier return voyages, that there is but little to complain of. I would, however, reiterate the necessity of adopting those regulations which I have heretofore suggested for the care and preservation of every article of warm clothing during the passage, by making it imperative that the care and seasonable issue thereof shall devolve on the commander and the surgeon, who should lay them up in store until a change in the temperature would call for their use; otherwise, both woollen clothes and blankets would be lost within the tropics, and the poor Coolies (unprovided as they generally are) would be

destitute of the best means of comfort and the preservation of their health in the time of need. BRITISH GUIANA.

23. As regards provisions, it is evident that an abundance is supplied, but the change of climate has that effect on hunger and want that it seems very advisable to adopt the scale of provisions accordingly. I am therfeore of opinion that more substantial food should be provided for the Coolies when beyond the tropics; and as their religious prejudices have yielded to keenness of appetite, and given way to the use of beef, pork, and biscuit, I would recommend a supply of rice, vegetables, and condiments within the tropics, and more substantial fare beyond the tropics, together with a more liberal supply of pumpkins, biscuits, yams, molasses, and lime juice, either at Demerara or in the West Indies, as both ships ran short of those essential articles before they reached the Cape.

24. The Coolies underwent the usual system of inquiry, and their answers to questions put to them were very similar to what had been elicited on former occasions and reported to Government. The island of Trinidad, as respects the climate and the treatment experienced there, is spoken of more favourably than Demerara. When asked how they were treated at Trinidad, they replied, "Very kindly," whilst at Demerara the Coolies from thence said, "Very badly;" they were then asked by whom, the answer was, by a Mr. Austen, who made them pay for their passage to Madras. On further inquiry they mentioned that some of their countrymen had been imprisoned for theft, and one man had been hung for the horrible crime of murder. I am therefore inclined to believe that criminal offences committed by some of the Madras emigrants, which were visited with the penalty they deserved, have engendered a feeling of ill-will, and that under the protection of Government they have at all times the means of obtaining redress.

25. As has invariably been the case that Bengal Coolies saved the most money, and their fellow labourers from Madras assign the same reason as heretofore for this difference in their industrial pursuits, as they say the former deny themselves that substantial kind of food and other comforts during their servitude, which they the Madras Coolies indulge in.

26. Both parties declared their aversion to British Guiana and the West Indies, chiefly on account of the length of the voyage and the severity of cold weather off the Cape. They expressed great delight at their safe return to their native country, but many of them said, after a short stay at home they would be very willing to undergo an industrial servitude at the Mauritius; and I may here observe that a considerable number of return Coolies from the West Indies have embarked for the Mauritius.

27. It appears that the Coolies are bound to supply themselves with warm clothing, and were provided with only one suit each, which is certainly insufficient; their outfit, under certain regulations, for both male and female emigrants, who were equipped in the same style, included a pair of trousers, to which the women had so decided an objection that they would not wear the trousers, and cut them up to make some other garments.

28. The difficulty which has been experienced on board emigrant ships in obtaining that assistance which is required by the surgeon when a number of the Coolies are reduced by sickness to a helpless condition, demands the consideration of the Colonial Government; and I think a certain remuneration should be authorized for so harassing a duty. It cannot be expected that so ignorant a class of people would voluntarily attend upon the sick; but it is absolutely necessary that the inmates of the sick bay, as regards its cleanliness and their comfort, should never be neglected.

29. The money brought by the Bengal and Madras Coolies was, with few exceptions, handed over to the safe keeping of either the commander or the surgeon of each ship, and that amount which belonged to the Madras Coolies was satisfactorily repaid to each individual at my office.

30. The amount of savings, so far as could be ascertained, by the Coolies on board the "Sandford" was 7,842 Spanish dollars, and in English money 46*l*. The largest sum possessed by one person was 530 dollars. On board the "Shand" the Coolies brought with them 6,997 dollars, and one man had, as his earnings, 1,110 dollars.

31. I could not ascertain what was the extent of pecuniary savings in the possession of the Bengal Coolies, but understood from the commander of the "Shand" that it was considerably more than that which the Madras Coolies had realized.

I have, &c.

Protector's Office, Madras,
Feb. 18, 1854.

(Signed) CHRIS. BIDEN,
Protector of Emigrants to the West Indies.

Enclosure 2 in No. 26.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office, Encl. 2 in No. 26.
January 5, 1855.

SIR,

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 26th ultimo, enclosing the copy of a letter from the India Board, with a report from the Protector of Immigrants at Madras on the ships "Sandford" and "Shand," of which the former took 251 return Coolies from British Guiana, the latter 287 from Trinidad.

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2. The people appear to have been in both cases very well treated on board. On the "Sandford," however, 15 persons died during the voyage; on the "Shand," only 5. The difference is ascribed by Captain Biden partly to the greater cold encountered by the "Sandford" in consequence of bad weather, partly to the more healthy state in which he supposes the Trinidad Coolies to have been put on board. He is of opinion that Trinidad is more adapted than British Guiana to the Indian constitution. The British Guiana authorities (we may remark) consider that country as less adapted to the inhabitants of the Madras Presidency than to natives of the great plains of Bengal.

3. In each ship the Coolies brought with them between 7,000 and 8,000 dollars of money. One individual returned with 1,110 dollars,—upwards of 200*l.* It seems the return Coolies are ready to go to Mauritius, but dread to meet again the long voyage to the West Indies.

4. The clothing appears to have been sufficient, except that Captain Biden is not satisfied with the quality of the blankets supplied at Demerara, and suggests that the warm clothing should be placed in the keeping of the commander.

Sub-Enclosure.

5. We would suggest that this report should be communicated to the authorities of Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad, for their information. It will be seen from the annexed extracts from the instructions issued by us to the surgeons employed that most of Captain Biden's suggestions respecting the treatment of the people on board have been anticipated. His observations respecting the scale of diet and medicines we shall bear in mind, with other suggestions on the same subject, when we reprint our form of charter party.

6. His recommendations respecting the period of the voyage and the course of the ships have been already under consideration. Those respecting the period of leaving the West Indies (which he desires to confine between the 1st March and 1st July), would oblige most of the Coolies to round the Cape during the winter months, and are at variance with the general opinions on this subject. On his suggestion that masters should be required to take their ships through the Mozambique channel, we had the honour to report on the 30th November 1853.

We have, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 2 in No. 26.

Sub-Encl. to Encl. 2 in No. 26.

Extracts from Instructions to Surgeons of Vessels conveying Coolies from the West Indies to India.

Vaccination.

"All passengers who have not had the small pox, or previously undergone vaccination, are, if possible, to be vaccinated.

Cook.

"It would be advisable also if some of the Coolies could be appointed specially for cooking the provisions of the rest, and to aid the surgeon in attending on the sick, and in maintaining cleanliness and discipline. To these cooks and headmen you will be authorized to promise such a gratuity as the Governor of shall think fit, which will be paid to you by the Protector of Immigrants at Madras, or the Emigration Agent at Calcutta.

Recruiting the Coolies.

"You will require the master to put in at the Cape, in compliance with the 14th article of the charter party, to take in a supply of live animals, water, and any fresh vegetables, &c., for recruiting the Coolies.

Separation of Sick.

"In case of serious illness, you will at once take measures for separating off the sick, and for securing that they are properly attended on by some of their countrymen.

Coolies to bathe.

"The Coolies to be induced to wash or bathe every morning in the warm latitudes."

No. 27.

No. 27.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir George Grey to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 72.)

Sir, Downing Street, January 16, 1855.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 24th of November last, No. 90,* transmitting a Report from the Immigration Agent General, on the embarkation for India of 251 return Coolies in the ship "Sandford."

* Page 170.

The Report is very clear and precise, and shows that every endeavour has been made to ensure that the various expedients which have been approved for securing the health of the Coolies should be adopted.

I am informed by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, and you will state to Mr. Austen for his information, that the Madras Coolies are found to reconcile themselves readily to eating the salt meat put on board, but not those generally from Bengal.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

No. 28.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 1.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 5, 1855.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a letter from Mr. Caird, showing the number of Coolies which he had despatched from India during the late season to the West Indies, and the terms on which they have embarked. 9 March 1855. Enclosure.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Enclosure in No. 28.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta,
March 9, 1855.

SIR,

IN forwarding for the information of the Board a return of the ships despatched with emigrants to the West India Colonies during the season just completed, I beg to state, with reference to your letter of the 2nd November last, that the whole of the people embarked on those ships have left India on the clear understanding that they will be required to perform ten years of industrial residence before they can claim a back passage at the expense of the Government; but they would be at liberty to return to India at the expiration of their fifth year of industrial residence; provided they paid for their own passage. It is not, however, at all probable that a single person will be in a condition to avail himself of this latter condition. All Coolies who may leave India hereafter for the West Indies, shall be engaged on the terms specified in third paragraph of your letter above referred to.

To S. Walcott, Esq.,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. CAIRD,
Emigration Agent.

LIST of Emigrant Ships despatched to the West India Colonies from the Month of September 1854 to the 28th February 1855.

Name of Ship.	Tonnage.		Contract Price.	Date on which placed at the disposal of Agent at Calcutta.	Date of Departure.	Embarked.						
						Adults.		Children.		Infants.	Total Souls.	Statute Adults.
	Old.	New.				M.	F.	M.	F.			
BRITISH GUIANA.			£ s. d.	1854.	1854.							
"Henry Moore" - -	-	1,223	15 0 0	26 Sept.	27 Sept.	289	52	15	4	11	371	350½
"Southampton" - -	-	971	11 19 0	2 Nov.	3 Nov.	289	54	8	6	5	362	350
"Bellairs" - - -	-	609	13 17 0	17 Do.	18 Do.	207	36	7	7	6	263	250
"Assaye" - - -	-	847	12 18 6	21 Decr.	22 Decr.	301	38	8	5	11	363	345½
				1855.	1855.							
"Devonshire" - -	-	831	12 12 0	9 Jan.	10 Jan.	254	55	5	6	7	327	314½
"Royal George" - -	-	608	13 9 0	30 Do.	31 Do.	210	35	14	1	11	271	252½
"Thetis" - - -	-	550	12 2 4	9 Feb.	10 Feb.	176	54	10	3	9	252	236½
"Apolline" - -	-	450	11 19 0	26 Do.	27 Do.	144	25	2	1	1	173	170½
TRINIDAD.												
"Windsor" - - -	-	676	13 19 0	1854. 1 Decr.	1854. 2 Decr.	240	38	12	4	8	302	286
					Grand Total...	2,110	387	81	37	69	2,684	2,556

Emigration Agent's Office,
Calcutta, the 2nd March 1855.

(Signed) T. CAIRD,
Emigration Agent.

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No. 29.

No. 29.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. LORD JOHN RUSSELL to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(Circular.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 23, 1855.

No. 20. 25 May 1855. Enclosure.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a Despatch I have addressed to the Governor of Mauritius in reference to the proportion of female to male immigrants to be required in future emigration from India to that Colony.

You will understand that the views expressed in that Despatch on this subject are to be considered as equally applicable to the West Indies, where, indeed, it is still more important to redress the disproportion, inasmuch as the immigrants being brought from a greater distance, and for a longer term of service, must be regarded as constituting a more permanent population.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Encl. in No. 29.

Enclosure in No. 29.

(No. 20.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 25, 1855.

I HAVE had under my consideration Lieutenant-General Sutherland's despatch, No. 7, of the 8th January last, together with your letter of the 10th January last, written in Ireland, and your further letter of the 6th ult., written at Cairo, on the subject of the intention which had been announced by Her Majesty's Government to put a stop to the emigration now carried on from India to Mauritius, unless means could be found of procuring a due proportion of women to accompany the men.

Sub-Enclosure 1. 10 March 1855.

Sub-Enclosure 2. 14 May 1855.

I have also had under my consideration two reports (of which copies are enclosed), dated respectively the 10th March and the 14th instant, from the Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom the two former of these papers were referred.

You will perceive from the tables annexed to the Commissioners' Report, of the 14th May, that in the free emigration from this country to the American Union, to the British North American Colonies, and to the Australian Colonies, from 1843 to 1854, both inclusive, the smallest proportion of females has been 80 to 100, or 4 females to 5 males; the males and females to the United States having been respectively 1,005,383 and 881,875, or 82¾ per cent.; those to British North America 249,478 and 221,214, or 88½ per cent.; and those to Australia 174,490 and 139,763, or 80 per cent.

This proportion I am aware cannot be retained in respect to Indian immigration, but it is desirable to approach it as far as we can.

It appears from the returns of immigration that a much larger proportion of women is obtained from Madras than from Bengal, and Lieutenant-General Sutherland has even expressed his belief that there is little difficulty in inducing women to come from Madras. I beg to recommend that you should communicate privately with Lord Harris on this subject.

As you were informed in Sir George Grey's despatch, No. 7, of the 24th April, it was not proposed to establish definite regulations until Her Majesty's Government should be in possession of all the material information which they can hope to receive. But I wish you to understand that the least proportion of women which I shall expect to be reached in the emigration of 1856, is that recommended by the Land and Emigration Commissioners, namely, 25 in every hundred, or one woman to three men. This would indeed be a very insufficient proportion if it were not to be progressively augmented; but the Madras emigration would apparently, even at present, yield a larger proportion; and it will be necessary to prescribe, so soon as I shall be in a position to do so, the progressive increase of the proportion which will be required in future years.

It would be a subject of the most serious regret to Her Majesty's Government if it should not be found practicable to continue immigration consistently with the moral and social well-being of the community. I rejoice in the good effects which have already been produced by it, and my only wish is to guard this beneficial operation from evils which would produce a sudden revulsion and a departure from a policy in itself salutary both to the Colony and to India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Governor Higginson, &c. &c.
Mauritius.

Sub-Enclosure 1 to Enclosure in No. 29.

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Colonial Land and Emigration Office, March 10, 1855.

Sub-Encl. 1 to Encl. in No. 29.

SIR,

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 2nd instant, enclosing copies of a letter from the Governor of Mauritius, now in England, and of a despatch from the acting Governor, Lieutenant-General Sutherland, transmitting a report from the Immigration Committee, a memorial addressed to the Secretary of State by the Chamber of Agriculture, and other papers. All these documents have reference to Coolie immigration, and are submitted to the Secretary of State with reference to the decision of the Duke of Newcastle and Sir George Grey, that Coolie immigration should be stopped unless means could be found of rectifying the disproportion which exists between the numbers of male and female immigrants.

2. The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Immigration Committee, and Chamber of Agriculture join in deprecating any such change as may check this immigration, of which the planters urgently desire the increase. The Chamber of Agriculture also propose a scheme for conducting an emigration at the expense of planters, subsidiary to that paid for out of the Public Revenue.

3. On this proposal the acting Governor intimates an intention to report hereafter, and it would therefore be premature to report upon it; nor does it seem necessary to do more than notice the unfounded apprehension of the Immigration Committee that it is intended to substitute Chinese for Coolie immigration. We shall therefore confine ourselves at present to the point to which Governor Higginson and Lieutenant-General Sutherland address themselves,—the threatened discontinuance of Coolie immigration. This question is one of so much importance to the prosperity of Mauritius that we do not feel that we should do it justice without a short statement of the present character and effects of the immigration.

4. Its statistics up to the end of 1852 may be seen in some returns recently furnished from the colony, and printed in the appendix to our report of 1854 (Nos. 66, 67, 68, 69).

5. The immigration was commenced in 1834-5 to obviate the consequences of the total abandonment of field work by the Creoles which followed upon their emancipation. Till 1843 it was conducted by the planters, and the numbers introduced were 25,014 males, and 1,014 (about 4 per cent.) females. The abuses which occurred under this system led the Government in 1843 to adopt the conduct of the immigration. From that year to 1852 inclusive the proportion of females has fluctuated considerably, but the result has been that during these ten years 111,849 males and 21,990 females have been introduced, the proportion of the latter sex being about 20 per cent. But as the number of men who return to India is far greater comparatively than that of women, and the number of births is of course not very unequal (6,475 males, 5,964 females), the result is that in October last the numbers were estimated at 22,340 females to 88,936 males, the ratio being slightly more than 25 per cent. It also appears that the average annual loss to the labouring population by departure or death is of about 4,618 males, and 673 females.

The numbers now given by the Immigration Committee are very different from those given by Mr. Hugon, C. Land E. C.'s Report, 1854, Appendix No. 67.

	M.	F.
Departures during 10 years	27,954	3,329
Deaths	18,230	3,408
Total	46,184	6,737
Average	4,618	673

6. The effect of this immigration has been to maintain a rapid increase in the production of sugar, which commenced before the emancipation of the slaves. From 1822 to 1824 the average annual production is said to have been 22 million pounds. In 1832 the sugar crop was 73 millions; in 1842 it was rather less, but since 1844 it has never been below 100 millions, and in 1852-3 it exceeded 160 millions; and production has been said to be increasing at the rate of 20 million pounds a year.

Appendix No. 25 to C. L. & E. C. Report, 1854.
Reports of C.L. & E.C. 1850, Appendix No. 25. 1854, Appendix No. 69.

7. Commercially speaking this is of course a very satisfactory result. It is still more so as an instance of the successful application of free labour to the manufacture of sugar; but it is principally gratifying in the physical advantages conferred on the 110,000 Coolies who are benefited by it.

8. Their present position is this:—On their arrival in the colony they are expected to enter into engagements for three years; after the expiration of that period they have the alternative of serving an additional two years, or commuting the whole or part of that period at the rate of £1 12 0 per annum. On making this payment or completing a service of five years they are at liberty to return to their own country at their own expense, the cost of a back passage being about £1.

Report, 1851, Appendix Nos. 32, 33, 34, 35.

9. In the great majority of cases their wages vary from 8*s.* to 12*s.* a month besides rations. From these they are able to make considerable savings. In 1849 Mr, Caird considered that "with the slightest regard to prudence a common labourer could easily save 200 or 250 rupees in the five years," and stated as a well-known fact that ¾ of those who returned to India brought with them sums of from 50 to 1,200 rupees each. About the same time (Feb. 15, 1850), Sir G. Anderson, formerly a judge in India, after searching inquiries, expressed his opinion in the following terms:—

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"I do not mean to say that we have not cases where difficulties are raised and justice sought to be evaded, it would not be human nature were it not so; but I mean to say as a whole the Indian is well protected, and as a whole he is justly treated, and as a labouring population, perhaps nowhere in the world is in such favourable circumstances. He is well and certainly fed, he is clothed, he is lodged, he has good pay, he is cheerful, he is healthy, and with the savings of his pay looks at the end of his term of residence to return to his home with what is to him wealth."

10. About the same time (15th May, 1850), the Protector of Immigrants at Madras, an officer disposed to scrutinize very jealously the results of emigration from India, declared that the return emigrants, who had brought back considerable sums of money, "proclaimed the good treatment and liberality which they experienced in the colony," and that "emigration to Mauritius was held in such favour with the labouring classes that there could be no difficulty in obtaining the number of Coolies then required by the Mauritius Government." And it is important to add that when the prosperity of the producing classes was so severely tried by the failures of the great Mauritius houses in 1848, the labourers' wages were (excepting a very few cases) duly paid, and the sugar cultivation immediately recovered the check.

11. These advantages are already reaped by more than 100,000 natives of India, and there appears, commercially speaking, no reason why they should not be extended, as the colonists are anxious to extend them to an indefinitely greater number.

12. But they are accompanied by the great moral evils and dangers arising from the absence of an adequate number of females among the immigrants, the proportion of the sexes being, as we have said, 88 to 22 thousand, or 4 to 1. To this objection the following imperfect replies are suggested by the papers before us. It is said that the case of the Australian Colonies was worse; but this of course has no weight, unless the Australian Colonies are allowed as a precedent, the contrary being in fact the case. It is said that Coolies are beginning to connect themselves with Creole women. But, supposing the amalgamation of the Coolie, French, and Creole labouring classes complete, the general result would be that of a labouring population composed of about 140,000 males to 70,000 females, the excess being caused by the Coolie immigration. It is pointed out that the per-centage of females is rising, and has in fact risen from 14 to about 20 per cent. The actual progress, however, is hardly so great, the proportion having been, according to the returns before cited, nearly 18 per cent. in the first three years of the Government emigration. Lastly, it is indistinctly implied by the Governor (par. 3) and the Immigration Committee (par. 12) that the crimes most to be apprehended from the disparity of sexes are not known to take place; but among Asiatics the existence of that crime can hardly fail to be inferred from the mere disparity of sexes.

13. It may be added, however, to the pleas of the planters, that, of the male excess of 66,000 persons, a considerable number are men merely sojourning for a few years in the colony, in order to return to their families with their savings, and are thus not very differently placed from an English soldier or sailor.

14. But whatever deductions may be made on these accounts, it is plain that this immigration contains an enormous evil, to be neutralized or mitigated with as little diminution as possible of the great benefits which it has conferred on the colony, on the 20,000 families who are represented by the 22,340 Indian females, and, in point of mere material prosperity, on the remaining 60,000 Coolies.

15. One step which appears to be feared by the planters is, that of prohibiting immigration except in equal proportions of males and females. But we should much apprehend that this will prove equivalent to prohibiting it absolutely. There is every reason for believing that the difficulty of prevailing on women to emigrate is incapable of being overcome at once by any means which the planters or emigration agent can devise, or indeed in any way but by that gradual loosening of prejudices which may be hoped from an extending habit of emigration. At present it is pretty certain that in the bands who present themselves at the depôt for emigration the males will universally predominate; nor, we imagine, would it be possible to induce women to emigrate at all, except as members of such parties, or, consequently, to make up the deficiency of females in one party by transferring them from another. The result of course must be that women and men must be alike sent back to their homes.

16. If this course were persevered in, the consequences would be an annual drain of 4,000 or 5,000 return Coolies from a labouring population of 88,000, and with this a rapid diminution of the means of cultivation, an abandonment of those plantations for which hands could no longer be procured, a desperate competition for labourers, causing at once an increase in wages and decrease in the steadiness of the labourers; a further abandonment of such estates as could not support the increased payments, and decrease of effective work; and on the whole, all that series of familiar consequences which follow when circumstances place the employer at the mercy of a labouring population sufficiently shrewd to appreciate their advantage, but not sufficiently far-sighted to understand the danger of pressing it too far.

17. While, therefore, we fully recognize the duty of stimulating the colonists to incur any expenses and devise any measures which may tend to an equalization of the sexes, we would strongly recommend a course less threatening to the prosperity of the colony than that which the planters and authorities anticipate.

18. In the first place, we feel little doubt that it is impossible to effect at present more than an increase in the proportion of female to male immigrants. That proportion is at present 1 to 5; we would endeavour to make it 1 to 3, a number indicated by the Chamber of Agriculture. But as the rigid enforcement of even this condition may be impossible, and may consequently stop the emigration suddenly if directly enforced, we would suggest that the male immigration of each year should be made to depend on the number of females introduced in the previous one; or, to apply the rule to the present moment, that the emigration agents in India should be authorized to send out in 1856 (as many women as possible, but) only three times as many men as there had been women introduced in 1855.

19. If, during the current year, Mr. Caird succeeded in sending out the average number of 2,000 women, this would justify an immigration of 6,000 men in 1856, which would somewhat more than cover the probable number of departures and deaths. But a further decrease would take place in 1857, unless the absolute number of female immigrants were kept up, and consequently the proportion increased.

20. In bands of Indians imported at the expense of private persons, we do not see how it would be possible to modify the simple condition that they should contain a fixed proportion (for the present one-third) of females. And, if the emigration were so reduced that the applicants for passages to Mauritius much exceeded the number authorized to be sent, Mr. Caird would, of course, instruct his collecting agents to prefer those bands in which were found the greatest number of females, and thus to give an inducement to the Coolies to bring their women with them.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

P.S.—We think it right to add that since drafting the above report we have received a letter from Mr. Caird, containing a return, from which it appears that during the year 1854 the proportion of female to male immigrants was about 13·6, instead of 19 or 20 per cent. The numbers were as follows:—

Adults.		Children.		Infants.
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
7,567	923	321	152	262

Males	7,888
Females	1,075
Infants	262
Total	9,225

Sub-Encl. 2 to Encl. in No. 29.

Sub-Enclosure 2 to Enclosure in No. 29.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
May 14, 1855.

Sir,

We have to acknowledge your letter of the 5th instant, enclosing a despatch from the Acting Governor of Mauritius respecting the continuance of Coolie immigration into that Colony.

2. Major-General Sutherland repeats in this despatch the arguments previously urged by the authorities against the discontinuance of this immigration, which have been already under Lord John Russell's notice, and on which we have nothing to state beyond what was contained in our report of the 10th March. But he adds the important statement that little, if any, difficulty is experienced in prevailing on females to emigrate from Madras. On this point it appears to us that it would be very desirable to obtain the opinion of Lord Harris, who would not only be interested in the emigration, from his past connection with Trinidad, but has on former occasions dwelt very earnestly on the

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necessity of a female emigration. These circumstances would give great value to his Lordship's suggestions respecting the possibility of establishing an emigration from the Madras Presidency in proper proportions of males and females.

3. Meantime we find by examining the statistical returns sent to us from time to time, and printed in our reports, that emigrant ships sent from Madras have in fact contained a much larger proportion of females than those sent from Calcutta.

4. In the emigration to the West Indies which was carried on between 1845 and 1848, the females from Calcutta (exclusive of children) appear to have been about 18 per cent. of the males; from Madras, about 28.

5. The emigration to Mauritius up to 1850 was only from Calcutta; but for that and the three following years the per-centage proportion of females to males (including children) was as follows:—

Calcutta.		Madras.	
1850	16 per cent.	1850	24 per cent.
1851	19 „	1851	27 „
1852	30 „	1852	24 „
1853	21 „	1853	28 „
On the immigration of the four years	22 per cent.	On the immigration of the four years	26 per cent.

6. In the first three months of 1854 (to which alone our returns extend), the females from Madras are in the proportion of 30 per cent. to the males. On the year's emigration from Calcutta they were 13·6 per cent.

Statement 1.

Statement 2.

7. We annex two tables, of which the first (which was printed in our annual report of 1854) shows the rate at which females have been introduced into Mauritius, and the effect on the relative numbers of the sexes. The second, at Lord John Russell's desire, shows the proportion (as regards sex) in which emigrants have proceeded during the last 12 years to the United States, to British North America, and to Australia, respectively.

8. It will be seen by the first of these tables that the proportion of Coolie women residing in the colony is greater than the proportion introduced from year to year. The cause of this difference has been before pointed out, viz., that the former proportion is affected by the births and departure of Coolies, the births being of course equally divided, or nearly so, and the departures being proportionably more frequent among the men than among the women.

9. The statement of Major-General Sutherland, that in Bengal males are very much in excess of females, might of course be verified by application to the Indian Government; but we do not see that its verification would lead to any practical result.

10. If it be found by experience that females can be obtained from Madras in much larger numbers than from Bengal, the obvious expedient would be to remove the bulk of the emigration to the former port; nor would there be, we imagine, any difficulty in effecting this. But in the absence of such experience, and with every facility for giving the question a fair practical trial, we should deprecate any sudden disturbance of the existing arrangements.

We have, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

STATEMENT 1.

1st Immigration.—General Statement of Indian Immigration from 1834 to 31st December 1842.

Years.	Number remaining on 1st January.		Increase.						Decrease.						Excess of				Number of Marriages contracted before the Civil Commissioners.	Rate of Mortality per Cent.		Per-centage proportion of Females to Males on 1st January of each year.	Per-centage proportion of Females to Males introduced within each year.
			By Arrivals.		By Births.		Total.		By Departures.		By Deaths.		Total.		Increase over Decrease.		Decrease over Increase.						
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.		
1834	–	–	75	–	–	–	75	–	4	–	1	–	5	–	70	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1835	70	–	1,182	72	2	–	1,184	72	25	1	5	–	30	1	1,154	71	–	–	–	7·	–	–	6·
1836	1,224	71	3,639	184	1	1	3,640	185	187	3	64	4	251	7	3,389	178	–	–	–	2·1	2·4	5·8	5·
1837	4,613	249	6,939	353	1	4	6,940	357	114	20	300	4	414	24	6,526	333	–	–	7	3·7	·9	5·3	5·1
1838	11,139	582	11,567	241	19	32	11,586	273	148	6	607	28	755	34	10,831	239	–	–	8	3·7	3·9	5·2	2·
1839	21,970	821	933	102	37	41	970	143	170	3	889	46	1,059	49	–	94	89	–	16	3·9	5·1	3·7	10·9
1840	21,881	915	107	9	70	76	177	85	394	23	495	38	889	61	–	24	712	–	18	2·2	4·	4·	8·4
1841	21,169	939	499	43	72	87	571	130	995	94	413	44	1,408	138	–	–	837	8	22	1·9	4·5	4·4	8·7
1842	20,332	931	73	10	94	86	167	96	2,021	94	373	45	2,394	139	–	–	2,227	43	23	1·9	4·8	4·5	13·6
1843	18,105	888	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total			25,014	1,014	296	327	25,310	1,341	4,058	244	3,147	209	7,205	453	21,970	939	3,865	51	94	–	–	–	–

T. Hugon, Protector of Immigrants.

STATEMENT 1.—*continued.*

2ND IMMIGRATION.—General Statement of the Indian Population from 1st January 1843 to 1st January 1853.

Years.	Number remaining on 1st January.		Increase.						Decrease.						Excess of.				Number of Marriages contracted before the Civil Commissioners.	Rate of Mortality per Cent.		Per-centage proportion of Females to Males on 1st January of each year.	Per-centage proportion of Females to Males introduced within each year.
			By Arrivals.		By Births.		Total.		By Departures.		By Deaths.		Total.		Increase over Decrease.		Decrease over Increase.						
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.		
1843 - -	18,105	888	30,218	4,307	109	91	30,327	4,398	2,884	108	1,094	129	3,978	237	26,349	4,161	–	–	22	3·4	4·2	4.8	14·2
1844 - -	44,454	5,049	9,709	1,840	235	213	9,944	2,053	2,312	149	3,862	238	6,174	387	3,770	1,666	–	–	20	8·	3·9	11·3	18·9
1845 - -	48,224	6,715	8,918	2,053	346	359	9,264	2,412	2,492	170	2,100	252	4,592	422	4,672	1,990	–	–	36	4·	3·2	13·10	23·
1846 - -	52,896	8,705	5,718	1,621	529	477	6,247	2,098	2,556	204	1,447	298	4,003	502	2,244	1,596	–	–	29	2·6	3·	16·4	28·3
1st Census	53,747	9,739	2,713	995	275	250	2,988	1,245	1,344	46	793	165	2,137	211	851	1,034	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1847 - -	55,140	10,301	5,174	656	664	625	5,838	1,281	1,651	133	1,171	295	2,822	428	3,016	853	–	–	46	2·	2·7	18·6	12·6
1848 - -	58,156	11,154	4,739	656	652	643	5,391	1,299	2,639	376	1,215	289	3,854	665	1,537	634	–	–	44	2·	2·4	19·3	13·8
1849 - -	59,693	11,788	6,378	1,047	687	627	7,065	1,674	4,298	594	1,220	296	5,518	890	1,547	784	–	–	78	1·9	2·4	19·7	16·4
1850 - -	61,240	12,572	8,436	1,594	675	650	9,111	2,244	3,283	442	1,350	356	4,633	798	4,478	1,446	–	–	64	2·1	2·6	20·5	18·8
1851 - -	65,718	14,018	8,257	1,763	737	670	8,994	2,433	2,805	374	1,249	331	4,054	705	4,940	1,728	–	–	82	1·8	2·1	21·3	21·3
2nd Census	70,601	15,611	7,918	1,644	640	585	8,558	2,229	2,540	341	1,135	295	3,675	636	4,883	1,593	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1852 - -	70,658	15,746	13,671	3,814	926	774	14,597	4,588	2,934	392	1,594	464	4,528	856	10,069	3,732	–	–	41	2·	2·6	22·2	27·8
1853 - -	80,727	19,478	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total - - -			111,849	21,990	6,475	5,964	118,324	27,954	31,738	3,329	18,230	3,408	49,968	6,737	68,356	21,217	–	–	462	–	–	–	–

T. HUGON, Protector of Immigrants.

STATEMENT 2.

RETURN of the Number of Male and Female Emigrants embarked in the United Kingdom for the United States, British North America, and Australia, from 1843 to 1854, both inclusive, so far as shown by the Documents in this Office.

	United States.						British North America.						Australian Colonies.					
	Adults.		Children.		Total.		Adults.		Children.		Total.		Adults.		Children.		Total.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1843	10,384	8,566	3,704	3,524	14,088	12,090	8,682	6,699	3,502	3,312	12,184	10,011	1,239	972	489	473	1,728	1,445
1844	16,536	14,211	5,211	5,301	21,747	19,512	8,388	7,144	3,159	2,966	11,547	10,110	754	708	310	296	1,064	1,004
1845	22,599	19,616	6,572	7,126	29,171	26,742	11,758	10,449	4,237	3,997	15,995	14,446	232	202	133	125	365	327
1846	32,322	27,833	9,652	9,211	41,974	37,044	16,268	14,700	5,339	5,539	21,807	20,139	771	672	337	309	1,108	981
1847	59,263	43,843	17,978	17,054	77,241	60,897	38,878	31,136	19,680	18,309	58,558	49,445	1,655	1,502	793	765	2,448	2,267
1848	—	—	—	—	103,708	78,783	—	—	—	—	16,132	13,539	—	—	—	—	11,409	10,640
1849	—	—	—	—	117,976	94,257	—	—	—	—	21,465	18,249	—	—	—	—	14,790	15,009
1850	—	—	—	—	114,731	99,791	—	—	—	—	16,693	15,092	—	—	—	—	7,406	6,668
1851	—	—	—	—	139,811	117,567	—	—	—	—	21,346	20,148	—	—	—	—	10,315	8,816
1852	—	—	—	—	127,553	107,359	—	—	—	—	16,439	15,478	—	—	—	—	49,247	31,755
1853	91,683	78,290	24,082	22,336	115,765	100,626	11,295	10,679	5,055	4,711	16,350	15,390	25,176	20,137	5,365	6,067	30,541	26,204
1854	83,180	60,706	18,438	16,501	101,618	77,207	15,009	13,702	5,953	5,465	20,962	19,167	36,285	26,461	7,784	8,186	44,069	34,647
Total	—	—	—	—	1,005,383	831,875	—	—	—	—	249,478	221,214	—	—	—	—	174,490	139,763

SUMMARY.

Destination.	Males.	Females.	Per-centage of Females.
United States - -	1,005,383	831,875	82¾
British North America -	249,478	221,214	88½
Australian Colonies -	174,490	139,763	80
Total - -	1,429,351	1,192,852	83½

N.B.—In addition to the above 129,514 Emigrants embarked whose sex was not distinguished, viz.:—

To the United States - - - -	83,997
„ British North America - - -	19,824
„ Australian Colonies - - - -	25,693
Total -	129,514

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
11th May 1855.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 30.

No. 30.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right. Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 29.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 29, 1855.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches* of the 24th March last, and 20th April last, Nos. 36 and 47, in reference to the continuance of immigration from the East Indies to British Guiana.

* Pages 171 and 175.

2. I find that you are of opinion that the further raising of immigration loans, except in so far as they may be necessary to the introduction of a self-supporting system, is inexpedient, and that, in order to continue the immigration, it is necessary that the planters to whom Coolies shall be assigned should bear the whole cost of their introduction;—and to give effect to this principle, you propose that the Coolie shall, on his arrival in the colony, be assigned to a planter for five years, from whom an annual sum of ten dollars would be required, making in the whole 50 dollars. You further state that it will be necessary that a loan should be raised to cover the first cost of introduction, to be repaid by the annual instalments received from the planters.

3. I have to express my concurrence in the principle of the measure which you have thus submitted to me, and although it would have been more satisfactory had it been possible to dispense with the raising of further loans for immigration services, even to the proposed extent, you have my authority for laying before the local Legislature whatever laws may be required for bringing your proposed measure into active operation.

4. I must, however, observe, that whilst you estimate the cost of the introduction of a Coolie at 50 dollars, it has, nevertheless, been pointed out to me by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners that the expense of the passage alone has, during the last two seasons, been considerably more than this—having averaged in 1853–4, 12*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, and in 1854–5, 12*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* They add that freights are indeed lower at the present moment than at any time during the last two years, but that it is scarcely to be expected that the reduction will be permanent. Under any circumstances, however, the sum of 50 dollars will not be sufficient to cover the total expense of introduction, and you will have to bear in mind that if no higher charge be imposed on the employers, a considerable portion of the expenditure will thus fall on the general revenue of the colony.

5. As regards the wish you have expressed, that the Land and Emigration Commissioners should be authorized to proceed at once to take steps for the conveyance of 3,000 emigrants in the coming season, and to your suggestion that recourse shall be had to the Presidency of Madras for some of the immigrants, I transmit to you for your information a copy of the instructions I have caused to be sent to the Commissioners on the subject. At the same time I must transmit to you a copy of a letter from Mr. Caird explaining the difficulties which interfere with a large emigration from Calcutta to the West Indies. The opening of Madras will probably facilitate the collection of emigrants, but I should fear that the agents will find much difficulty in obtaining the number required by the planters of British Guiana, as well as 3,000 which have been applied for by the planters of Trinidad.

Enclosure 1. 18 June 1855.

Enclosure 2. 7 April 1855.

6. As regards the proportion of female to male immigrants, you will find that the agents will be instructed, in accordance with the wishes of the Combined Court, to send them if possible in equal numbers, being at the same time authorized to admit a smaller number of females, provided that it shall not be less in all than one to three males. My circular despatch† of 23d instant will place you in possession of the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the progressive proportion of females to be required in future immigration.

† Page 66.

7. I must now call your attention to two matters arising out of your scheme to which I attach considerable importance;—the first, in reference to the allotment of the Coolie on his arrival in the colony; the second having reference to the duration of his contract with his first employer.

8. Under the present system of allotment, the Governor is enabled to prevent the allotment of any Coolie to an estate not adapted to Coolies, either because the locality does not suit their health, or because the manager does not under-

stand their treatment, or because proper provision does not exist for housing them, or supplying them with hospital accommodation or medical care. But if the mere payment of a price by the planter is to be considered as giving him an absolute right to receive the services of a Coolie, and for a full period of five years, it will be much more difficult for the Local Government either to watch properly over the Coolies' interest in his original allotment, or during his period of service to exercise for his protection the power of cancelling his contract.

9. In framing an ordinance on this subject, it will therefore be necessary to guard against any misconception on the part of the planter as to his right to the services of any immigrants, unless the Governor has satisfied himself that the estate is suitable, and that proper provision has been made for the reception and care of the immigrants. As regards the duration of the contract to be entered into on arrival, you will understand that the right of the Coolie to quit his employer's service at the end of the third and fourth years, on payment of 2*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* for each year, must be maintained, and that a power must be continued to the Governor of cancelling contracts on the same grounds on which contracts can now be cancelled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 30.

Encl. 1 in No. 30.

GENTLEMEN, Downing Street, June 18, 1855.

I AM directed by Lord John Russell to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., reporting on the scheme submitted by Governor Wodehouse for continuing emigration from the East Indies to British Guiana.

I am in reply to convey to you Lord John Russell's authority for instructing the emigration agents at Calcutta and Madras, under such regulations as shall appear to you most likely to lead to a satisfactory result, to send to British Guiana during the ensuing season 3,000 Coolie emigrants. You will further instruct them to comply, so far as it may be in their power, with the wishes of the Combined Court, that an equal proportion of male and female emigrants should be sent; informing them, however, at the same time, that on finding it impracticable to obtain that proportion of females, they will be at liberty to decrease it to such an extent as shall not in the whole make the proportion less than one female to every three male emigrants.

As regards the mode of payment for the vessels employed in this service, you will acquaint the agents that as the requisite funds to cover such expenditure are not in your hands, the charter parties must distinctly lay down that the owners of the vessels must look to the Colony for their money, and that they (the agents) are on no account to make the home authorities responsible or liable for the sums that may become due to the owners.

A copy of the instructions to be sent to Governor Wodehouse on the subject generally will be transmitted to you as soon as completed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. MERIVALE.

The Colonial Land and
Emigration Commissioners.

Enclosure 2 in No. 30.

Encl. 2 in No. 30.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta,
April 7, 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd February last, requesting that I would report, for the information of the Board, the circumstances which have tended to prevent my furnishing a larger number of emigrants for the West India Colonies during the past season.

2nd. In reply, I would beg leave to draw the attention of the Board to my letters noted in the margin, in which I have endeavoured to explain the various causes which combine to make the West India emigration anything but popular with the natives of this country, and therefore my utter inability to forward on an unlimited number of efficient labourers *in any one season* to the West Indies.

5th Dec. 1853, 18th April 1854, 4th Sept. 1854, and 8th Jan. 1855, with Enclosure.

3rd. In the ninth paragraph of my letter to the Secretary to the Government of British Guiana, copy of which was enclosed to you in my letter of the 8th January last, I informed his Excellency that a number of Coolies had come down last cold weather to Calcutta with the intention of going to Mauritius, and not being required for that Colony had returned again to their villages, although I had offered to take them for the West Indies. This fact, added to the circumstance of so many Coolies absconding after they have been brought to the depôt, shows that the people generally have not that confidence in the West Indies which is so necessary to ensure a successful emigration to a large extent.

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4th. When the proposition for extending the period of industrial residence from five to ten years was under the consideration of the Government, I was led to believe by the colonists of Trinidad and British Guiana, that provided they could get the people for ten years, they would require but a very limited number annually. I most certainly never expected to have been called upon to provide 3,500 able-bodied emigrants in one year, much less that I should be required to furnish Coolies for a third Colony in addition to those two. If the emigration was now confined to British Guiana and Trinidad alone, I have no doubt but that I should be able to send them as many labourers as they would require in the aggregate in the course of three or four years, taking one year with another.

5th. Since my return from the West Indies, upwards of 2,600 picked people have annually been despatched under the new rule of ten years of industrial residence to entitle them to a free return passage, and I am not at all sanguine of being able to furnish in the ensuing season a larger number of efficient labourers than what have been sent in the past season, particularly if the orders conveyed to me in your letter of the 20th November last are to be carried out, viz., that emigrants who may proceed in future to the West Indies shall be required to contribute 35 dollars towards the expense of the return passage after they shall have completed their prescribed term of industrial residence.

6th. With regard to the increasing proportion of female emigrants, I beg to say that 18 per cent. have embarked with the Coolies in the past season, and that every exertion was made and no expense spared to obtain a greater number, but without effect. I had considerable difficulty in securing those who went, and I think the colonists will have no reason to complain of the quality of the people who have gone in 1854-55.

I have, &c.

To S. Walcott, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. CAIRD, Emigration Agent.

No. 31.

No. 31.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(Separate.)

18 June 1855. Enclosure.

* Page 74.

SIR, Downing Street, June 29, 1855.

WITH reference to my Despatch of this day's date, No. 29,* sanctioning the raising of a loan for carrying into effect your proposed scheme of immigration, I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury on this subject.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Encl. in No. 31.

Enclosure n No. 31.

SIR, Treasury Chambers, June 18, 1855.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having had before them your letter of the 12th inst., with the several documents which accompanied it relative to the provision to be made for continuing to British Guiana the Coolie emigration from the East Indies; their Lordships desire me to request that you will state to Lord John Russell that they will not object to the proposal of Governor Wodehouse to raise a further sum on account of immigration into British Guiana, subject to the condition that the money to be so raised shall be repaid to the extent and in the manner recommended by the Governor by means of annual instalments to be received from the planters.

Their Lordships regret to observe that the expenditure for this object cannot be defrayed without having recourse to a further loan, and that the revenue of the Colony is likely to be burthened with some additional charge on this account.

They cannot hold out the expectation that any further loan for this purpose can be raised under the guarantee of the Imperial Government; and, as the question of repealing the export duties has been raised in reference to the subject of immigration, they think it right to point out that in the present state of the revenue and expenditure of British Guiana such a proposal would be rendered more objectionable, from the fact that the measure now under consideration will impose additional burthens on the revenue of the Colony, to whatever extent the contributions from the planters are insufficient to meet the entire charge for immigration.

The amount of the proposed loan is not stated in the papers before their Lordships, nor, indeed, could it at present be stated with any degree of accuracy, inasmuch as there appears to be considerable doubt whether it will be possible to obtain the required number of immigrants.

Their Lordships desire me to request that they may be informed of the result of the proceedings to which Lord John Russell proposes to give the sanction of Her Majesty's Government.

John Ball, Esq., M.P., &c. &c.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JAMES WILSON.

No. 32.

No. 32.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir W. MOLESWORTH to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 22.)

SIR, Downing Street, August 28, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 25th June, No. 88,* and I have to convey to you Her Majesty's confirmation and allowance of the Ordinance passed by yourself and the Court of Policy of British Guiana, entitled "An Ordinance "to amend an Ordinance, No. 7, of the year 1854, in respect to the payments "of contract duty to be made by the employers of Indian immigrant labourers."

*Page 176.

No. 8 of 1855.

It would appear, however, that the immigrant's right of commutation has been lost sight of, for although provision is made that if any labourer changes his employer after 3 years' service the employer shall thereupon be relieved from his annual payments, yet no such relief is given in case the immigrant commutes the remainder of his time of service, or even in case of his death.

I think that it will be desirable that the attention of the Court of Policy should be called to these two points.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. I have, &c. (Signed) W. MOLESWORTH.

No. 33.

No. 33.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir W. MOLESWORTH to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 26.)

SIR, Downing Street, Sept. 3, 1855.

†Page 176.

† I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 7th July, No. 94, in which you request that 3,500 Indian labourers may be sent to British Guiana during the coming season.

My predecessor's Despatch of the 29th June, No. 29, will have informed you that instructions would be sent to the agent in India, to despatch, if possible, 3,000 immigrants to British Guiana; and I have now to acquaint you that Mr. Caird will be further instructed to use every exertion to forward the larger number for which you have made application; but I must repeat that there appears to be but little prospect of so large a number being procured.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. I have, &c. (Signed) W. MOLESWORTH.

No. 34.

No. 34.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir G. GREY to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 49.)

SIR, Downing Street, Nov. 9, 1855.

Enclosure. 27 Oct. 1855.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information the copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with its enclosures, from the Emigration Agent at Calcutta, representing the disinclination of the Coolies to consent to any contribution towards the expense of their return passages.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. I have, &c. (Signed) G. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 34.

Encl. in No. 34.

SIR, Emigration Office, October 27, 1855.

8 September. Sub-Enclosure.

WE beg to enclose, for transmission to British Guiana and Trinidad, the copy of a letter from Mr. Caird reporting the charter in India of the "Canning" for the conveyance of Coolies to British Guiana, the willingness of the Coolies to engage for ten years' industrial residence, and their extreme disinclination to consent to any contribution towards the expense of their return passages.

2. So much stress has been laid by gentlemen connected with the West Indies on this contribution that we could not, for the present at least, and without communication with the colonies, recommend that Mr. Caird should be instructed to waive it, especially as no

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difficulty is as yet anticipated by the agent at Madras. The experiment will be fairly tried during the emigration of the current season, and it will be time enough to relieve the Coolie from this charge should it be found by experience to increase materially the difficulty of procuring efficient emigrants.

We have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta,
September 8, 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Board, that I have taken up the ship "Canning" for the conveyance of 300 emigrants to British Guiana, at the rate of 15*l.* per adult. I very much fear, however, that I shall not be able, at least for this season, to procure labourers on the terms proposed in the first paragraph of your letter of the 20th November 1854. The people are willing to engage for ten years' industrial residence, and at the expiration of that time to be entitled to a free passage back to India, but they decline most positively to contribute a farthing towards their back passage. And the large proportion of females now required to be sent in each ship makes it more difficult than ever to obtain efficient labourers with their families for the West India Colonies.

I shall do myself the honour of communicating with you more fully on this subject by the next mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. CAIRD,
Emigration Agent.

To S. Walcott, Esq.,
&c. &c.

No. 35.

No. 35.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 2.)

SIR,

Downing Street, Nov. 24, 1855.

I HAVE had before me your Despatch, No. 114,* of the 9th of August, on the subject of the terms of payment to be inserted in the charter parties of Coolie emigrant ships engaged in the present season.

* Page 177.

These ships have always been paid for out of Colonial funds. On this point there has never been any doubt or discussion, nor has the idea ever been entertained of charging the revenues of Great Britain with the expense of introducing emigrants into any part of the West Indies. Inasmuch, however, as the Emigration Commissioners are officers of the Imperial Government, it was apprehended that should any default arise in the transmission of the Colonial funds on which they relied, merchants with whom they had entered into contracts, without any explanation on this point, might appeal to the British Government to discharge the liabilities incurred under past agreements. The Commissioners were therefore instructed to set forth in the charter parties of the current year for Coolie ships that the freights would be paid in the Colony, and by the Colonial Government. Due attention has, however, been given by Her Majesty's Government to the fear expressed by you that this course might prejudice the interests of the Colony; and being unwilling that any sudden and marked change in the terms of payment should operate unfavourably on the terms of the contracts, Her Majesty's Government have authorized the Emigration Commissioners to frame their charter parties in the same terms as to payment as in former years. A copy of the instructions to them is enclosed.

24 Oct. 1855.
Enclosure.

I cannot too distinctly, however, explain to you that no pecuniary aid is intended to be granted from Imperial funds; that the present course has been adopted wholly in reliance on the good faith of the Colonial Government; and that Her Majesty's Government will look to you to justify that expectation by punctually remitting the sums requisite to enable the Emigration Commissioners to discharge the obligations contracted by them or their agents for the service of the Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 35.

EXTRACT of LETTER from J. BALL, Esq., to the Emigration Commissioners, dated Downing Street, Oct. 24, 1855.

I AM desired to acquaint you that, under all the circumstances of the case, the Secretary of State authorizes you to withdraw the special notice given to Mr. Caird, that the owners of vessels chartered by him must be expressly directed to look to the Colony for the payment of their freights; and I am to instruct you that charter parties entered into, either by yourselves or Mr. Caird, for the line of Coolie ships in the approaching emigration season, may run in the same terms with regard to payment as the charter parties of previous seasons.

This course is sanctioned in the confident expectation that the Colonial Government will not fail to provide you in sufficient time with the funds requisite for discharging the freights of Coolie ships made payable at your Board. You will therefore furnish from time to time the best estimates in your power of the amounts that will be requisite for this purpose, as well as of the dates at which they will be wanted, in order that the Governor may be apprised of the same, and instructed to remit the necessary funds to your credit.

No. 36.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 3.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 26, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 142,* of the 4th October, in reply to Sir W. Molesworth's, No. 22, of the 28th August, in which your attention was called to an omission in the Ordinance, No. 8, of 1855, of any provision for cancelling the promissory notes of employers whose Coolies may commute a part of their time of service.

* Page 180 and 77.

In pursuance of your request, I have to convey to you my authority for leaving the matter undisturbed for the present.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 37.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 6.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 3, 1855.

I TRANSMIT for your information the enclosed extract of a Report from the Emigration Commissioners, accompanied by a letter from the Emigration Agent at Calcutta, announcing that he had been obliged to abandon the attempt to procure Coolie emigrants on condition of their paying 35 dollars towards the expense of their return passage.

6 Nov. 1855. Extract.

I also enclose copy of a further letter from the Commissioners.

22 Sept. 1855.

As it seems evident that the agent could have obtained no emigrants if he had insisted on those terms, the course he took appears to have been quite right, and entitled to approval.

23 Nov. 1855.

I also enclose an extract of a previous letter from Mr. Caird, explanatory of the terms which he had held forth to the emigrants on embarkation.

9 March 1855.

These terms will, of course, be duly fulfilled; I see nothing in them inconsistent with the provisions of the existing laws on the subject.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure 1 in No. 37.

Encl. 1 in No. 37. EXTRACT of Report of Emigration Commissioners to H. MERIVALE, Esq., dated

Emigration Office, November 6, 1855.

Sub-Enclosure. 22 Sept. 1855. WE have the honour to enclose, for the information of the Secretary of State, and for the Governors of British Guiana, Trinidad, and St. Lucia, the copy of a letter which we have received from the emigration agent at Calcutta, from which it appears that he abandons the attempt to procure Coolie emigrants on terms of paying 35 dollars towards their return passages.

Sub-Encl. in Encl. No. 1.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 1 in No. 37.

SIR, Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta, September 22, 1855.

WITH reference to the following extract from your letter of the 20th November, 1854:—

"It will be your duty to make it clearly understood by Indian emigrants that back passages will not be given them unless they contribute themselves 35 dollars towards the expense"—

I have the honour to observe, that, in accordance with the above, I have been making every effort in my power for the last eight weeks and upwards to collect labourers for the West Indies, but I regret to say that the people generally reject the proposition with the most determined resistance. I have, therefore, not deemed it expedient to press this measure any further for the present; if I had done so, I am of opinion that it would have stopped emigration altogether. And until I am in receipt of further instructions from you on this point (which, if despatched on the 9th November will reach me on the 15th of the following month), I shall continue to engage people on the same conditions as those of last year.

2nd. Under any circumstances a very limited number only can be forwarded on during the next five months, as the demand for every description of labourer is daily increasing, owing to the Government requiring very large numbers on the public works which are now in progress; and in addition to this demand, the railroad which runs through the very centre of the districts from whence the best labourers are procurable, takes away many who would otherwise have come on to me. The recruiting, therefore, for the West India Colonies in particular is carried on with considerable difficulty, which is now further increased by the large proportion of females required to be sent in each vessel; and what still adds more to my difficulty is, that I receive no assistance whatever from men who have returned from the West Indies, in consequence of their reports being unfavourable, whereas the reports circulated by men who come back from Mauritius induce large numbers of people to emigrate, and the consequence is that the emigration to that colony is daily becoming more popular and attractive, whilst that to the West Indies is looked upon by the people here with increased suspicion and distrust.

I have, &c.

S. Walcott, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) T. CAIRD, Emigration Agent.

P.S.—The Protector of Emigrants has reported the above circumstances to the Government of India, and I shall do myself the honour of forwarding a copy of his report to you by the next mail.

(Signed) T. C.

Encl. 2 in No. 37.

Enclosure 2 in No. 37.

SIR, Emigration Office, November 23, 1855.

WITH reference to our letter of the 6th instant, on the subject of the abandonment in India of the attempt to procure Coolies on the terms of paying back passage contribution of 35 dollars, we have the honour to enclose for the information of the Secretary of State a further communication from Mr. Caird, in which he transmits a letter from the Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta to the Bengal Government, reporting the extreme unwillingness of the Coolies to emigrate to the West Indies on the conditions proposed to them.

6 Oct.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH. C. ALEXANDER WOOD.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 2 in No. 37. BRITISH GUIANA.

SIR, Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta, October 6, 1855. Sub-Encl. in Encl. No. 2.

I HAVE now the honour to forward herewith copy of the Protector of Emigrant's Report to the Government of India, respecting the return passages of Coolies from the West Indies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. CAIRD,
Emigration Agent.

To the Secretary to Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.

No. 14.

From the Protector of Emigrants at the Port of Calcutta to G. G. Morris, Esq., Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

SIR,

WITH reference to Mr. Under-Secretary H. Pratt's letter, No. 132, of the 13th April last, to my address, conveying the Government orders as per margin, I have the honour to inform you that as the emigration for the West Indies for this season is about to commence, my assistant yesterday proceeded to Bhowanipare depôt and explained to the Coolies therein assembled (in number 154 men and 55 women) the conditions on which they were to emigrate; on hearing which, they, with the exception of one man, expressed their unwillingness to proceed to the West Indies on the new terms.

"That all Coolies who shall leave India for the West Indies, after due notice shall have been given, will be required to contribute 35 dollars towards the expenses of the return passage, and that no public aid will be granted to emigrants towards the expenses of their back passages, unless claimed within eighteen months after they become due."

I have, &c.
(Signed) DIVIE ROBERTSON,
Protector of Emigrants.

Protector's Office, Fort William, September 22, 1855.

Enclosure 3 in No. 37. Encl. 3 in No. 37.

EXTRACT from Mr. Caird's Letter, 9th March 1855.

"I beg to state with reference to your letter of the 2nd November last, that the whole of the people embarked in those ships have left India on the clear understanding that they will be required to perform ten years of industrial residence before they can claim a back passage at the expense of the Government; but they would be at liberty to return to India at the expiration of their fifth year of industrial residence, provided they paid for their own passage."

No. 38. No. 38.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 11.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 14, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch No. 154,* of 3rd ult., in which you request that you should be authorized to offer to those Coolies who may become entitled to return passages during the next two or three years, such bounties as may be deemed sufficient by the local Legislature, on condition of their remaining for five years in British Guiana, subject to the same obligations of industrial residence as are imposed by law on new immigrants, to be payable out of the funds to be raised under the provisions of Ordinance No. 16 of this year. * Page 181.

I have to acquaint you in reply that I have no objection to your passing an Ordinance to carry out your proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 39.

No. 39.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 15.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 31, 1855.

* Pages 179, 180.

I HAVE received your Despatches, No. 137* of September 25, and 145 of 9th October, respecting a proposed introduction of Chinese and Indian Coolies through private enterprise.

As regards the Chinese immigration, looking to the strong objections felt by the resident British authority in China responsible for our relations with that empire, and for the conduct of any British service undertaken there, it does not appear to me that the subject can be revived at present with advantage.

With respect to the introduction of Indian Coolies by private individuals, I have to state that the subject has received the best attention of Her Majesty's Government. Having regard to the gross abuses and the fatal results which arose out of the system of collecting and deporting emigrants by private agency before that system was put an end to by the Indian Government, I cannot but see many and serious difficulties in the way of the adoption of your proposal; but I can come to no final decision upon it until I shall be in the receipt of information which has been called for on the subject from the agents in India.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 40.

No. 40.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 24.)

SIR, Downing Street, January 16, 1856.

† Page 178.

WITH reference to your Despatch, No. 121,† of the 25th August last, I have to convey to you Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance of the Ordinance passed by yourself and the Court of Policy, entitled "An "Ordinance for raising a Loan for the introduction of Indian emigrants into "British Guiana."

The subject to which this Ordinance relates is undoubtedly one of great importance to the welfare of the colony, and Her Majesty's Government have been anxious to acquiesce in the measures considered expedient upon this matter by yourself and the Legislature. At the same time it is my duty to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and to draw your attention to the apprehension expressed by their Lordships that you are not sufficiently impressed with the necessity of confining the expenditure of the colony within such limits as may allow of its being provided for without the intervention of the Imperial Government.

21 Nov. 1855.

Enclosure.

I must also notice some of the views which you would appear to entertain on the subject of a guarantee. You express your hope that Her Majesty's advisers will not feel themselves bound to do the colony the injury, or at all events expose it to the loss, which must result from withholding a guarantee of the proposed loan. From the use of this language it must be supposed that you view an Imperial guarantee to colonial loans as a kind of right, or an accommodation of which the denial constitutes a grievance. The meaning of a guarantee, I must therefore remind you, is, that if from a deficiency of revenue or any other cause the parties raising the loan should be unable to fulfil its conditions, the money is to be made good from the public revenues of this country. Her Majesty's Government are bound to view this as a real liability; nor at a time when the people of this country are heavily burthened for the expenses of a costly foreign war, is it a light responsibility to make them also answerable for the pecuniary results of distant colonial enterprises in which they have little voice, and on which any intervention of their Government is apt to be resented. Many colonial projects of very questionable prudence are acquiesced in by Her Majesty's Government from an unwillingness to interfere with the judgment of those most interested on the spot; but it would be doing a most substantial injustice to the people of this country, if they were to be rendered liable, by furnishing this kind of guarantee, for the consequences of such projects.

BRITISH GUIANA

Moreover, if the pleas urged by you were admitted, it is by no means for British Guiana only that they would be valid. Out of the £500,000 already guaranteed by Parliament for the West Indies, British Guiana alone has had £250,000. Other colonies in other parts of the world would also have their claims; and when therefore you allude to the smallness of the sum now in question, I have merely to inform you, that in the loans now before me, which various colonies have contracted or propose to contract, and in respect of which application is made for Imperial guarantees, amount to more than twenty millions sterling.

You allude to the superior facilities which you believe that foreigners at this time enjoy for the introduction of labour into their colonies. With regard, however, to the importation of Chinese into Cuba by the Spaniards, I have to remind you that no Imperial prohibition put an end to a similar importation into Guiana. It is true that grave and possibly insuperable objections exist to a further immigration of Chinese; but that immigration was in fact discontinued not on account of those objections, but because the colonial authorities,—perhaps prudently,—declined to receive them except at a rate of payment at which they could not be procured. * * * * *

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 40.

Encl. in No. 40.

Treasury Chambers,
November 21, 1855.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 13th ultimo, transmitting an Ordinance recently passed by the Legislature of British Guiana, for raising a loan for the introduction of Indian immigrants; I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State, that my Lords will not object to the confirmation of this ordinance.

Their Lordships have already, in their letter of the 18th June last, expressed their opinion upon the proposal to raise a further loan for British Guiana upon the guarantee of the Imperial Government; and they perceive no grounds whatever, in the papers now transmitted, for altering the view they then took of the inexpediency of proposing to Parliament a further guarantee for this purpose.

They would remind the Secretary of State that no less than £250,000 was allowed to British Guiana out of the £500,000 authorized by the Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 130., and they regret to observe that Governor Wodehouse does not appear sufficiently impressed with the necessity of confining the expenditure of the colony within such limits as may allow of its being provided for without the intervention of the Imperial Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

To John Ball, Esq., M.P., &c. &c.

No. 41.

No. 41.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 41.)

Downing Street, March 14, 1856.

SIR,

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a Report from the Land and Emigration Commissioners, with copies of two letters from Messrs. Caird and Thomson respecting Coolie emigration to British Guiana during the present season.

Enclosure. 10th March 1856.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 41.

Encl. in No. 41.

Emigration Office,
March 10, 1856.

SIR,

WE beg to enclose, for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, copies of two letters which we have received from Messrs. Caird and Thomson the Emigration Agents at Calcutta and Madras, respecting Coolie emigration to the West Indies during the current season.

Mr. Caird, 21 Jan. Sub-enclosure 1. Mr. Thomson, 26 January.

Vide page 282.

2. It will be seen from Mr. Caird's letter that he has chartered the "Thomas Hamlin" for the conveyance of 300 emigrants to British Guiana at the rate of 11*l.* 16*s.* per adult.

BRITISH GUIANA.

3. Mr. Thomson explains that he only received authority to act as Emigration Agent for the West Indian colonies on the 26th of January last; that in consequence he will be precluded from shipping any considerable number of Coolies before the close of the emigration, unless he can obtain the consent of Lord Harris for the extension of the period for shipping Coolies from the 1st of March to the 1st of April. To this, under the peculiar circumstances of the season, and if the Madras Government consider it safe, we see no objection.

4. We would suggest that a copy of Mr. Caird's letter should be transmitted to Governor Wodehouse for his information.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq. &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sub-Encl.inNo.41.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 41.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta, January 21, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state for the information of Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners that I have engaged the "Thomas Hamlin" for the conveyance of 300 emigrants to Guiana at the rate of 11*l.* 16*s.* for each adult. The vessel will leave this in February.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. CAIRD,
Emigration Agent.

S. Walcot, Esq., &c. &c.

No. 42.

No. 42.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

SIR, Downing Street, March 19, 1856.

I HAVE to acquaint you that the question of the progressive proportion of female to male Indian immigrants to the West Indies has been under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I now proceed to make known to you the decision which has been arrived at on this question, as regards the seasons of 1856-7, 1857-8, and 1858-9.

1. The number of males to be introduced in 1856-7 must not under any circumstances exceed the proportion of one female to three male immigrants.

2. The number of males in 1857-8 must not exceed three times the number of females introduced in 1856-7.

3. For the season 1858-9 the number of males shall not exceed twice the number of females introduced in the previous season.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 43.

No. 43.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 49.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 27, 1856.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches of the 8th December last, and 24th January last, Nos. 164 and 9,*— the first having reference to the indentures to be entered into by Coolie immigrants during their ten years residence in the West Indies,—the second transmitting a Minute which you had laid before the Court of Policy, in compliance with their request to be supplied with copies of the substance of any communications you might have received from Her Majesty's Government, "calculated to show by what circumstance British Guiana was mainly prevented from obtaining a sufficient supply of immigrant labourers from India." You also enclose a series of resolutions passed at a public meeting held on the 21st January for the promotion of immigration into British Guiana.

* Pages 182, 183.

In your Despatch of the 8th December, you state, with reference to the refusal of the Coolies to contribute 35 dollars towards the cost of their return "passage, that this difficulty has been superadded to the others which beset "the question of immigration altogether by Her Majesty's Government,"—who, you elsewhere state, "alone have caused this demand to be made upon "the Coolies for money." BRITISH GUIANA.

I have to express my regret that you should have been led, perhaps from not having sufficiently informed yourself of the reasons which have from time to time guided Her Majesty's Government in framing measures the most likely in their opinion to ensure a beneficial emigration of labour from the East to the West Indies, to comment on those measures in a manner which the facts of the case do not justify or support.

In order that you may not again be led into a similar misapprehension of the proceedings of Her Majesty's Government, I shall briefly recapitulate what has been the course of events as regards the question of payment by the Coolie of the expense of his return passage to India.

The question of the liability of the Colonies themselves to provide return passages for the Coolies has, as you must be aware, been the subject of continual complaint on the part of the West Indians;—and repeated efforts have been made, not by Her Majesty's Government but by the colonists, to throw this expense entirely, or in part, on the Coolies themselves.

This feeling prevailed not only in Trinidad, but in British Guiana; and in the Guiana Ordinance No. 3 of 1853 it was provided that no Coolie should be entitled to a return passage unless he contributed towards it either five yearly payments of 9$ each, or an amount equal in the aggregate thereto (that is, 45$); or, in case the Coolie's residence were extended to eight or ten years, such yearly payments as would make up a sum not exceeding 45$. This Ordinance was disallowed by Her Majesty; and the Despatch notifying the disallowance was made the subject of a protest signed (with one exception) by the elective members of the Court of Policy. This protest contained, amongst other things, a statement of the terms on which the Court of Policy desired that immigration should be carried on; and one of the conditions was, "right to "return passage on expiration of eight years' residence in the Colony as above, "or paying 40$ to Public Treasury."

I have stated thus much to show that this question of a money payment from the Coolie did not, as the statement in your Despatch would imply, originate with Her Majesty's Government. It is true that when the Government of India and the Court of East India Directors assented to a second period of five years' industrial residence, as what should be required of the Coolie to entitle him to his return passage, the Duke of Newcastle, having objection to compulsory indentures for such a period, considered it not desirable to avail himself of this concession to its full extent, and decided that, in substitution for this arrangement, and in the place also of the proposal of the Court of Policy, the Coolie's second period of residence should be one unrestricted by indentures, whilst at the same time, and in order to meet, as much as might be, though not to their full extent, the demands of the colonists, the Coolies should be required to pay a sum of 35$ (instead of 40$ or 45$ as severally proposed by the Colonists) towards his return passage.

I shall address you separately on the other matters referred to in your Despatch.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 44. No. 44.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 50.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 27, 1856.

WITH reference to the concluding paragraph of your Despatch of the 8th December last, No. 164, I have to acquaint you that I have given my

BRITISH GUIANA.

fullest consideration to the question of the conditions under which Coolie emigrants should be brought during their residence in British Guiana for the second period of five years now sanctioned, consequent on the refusal of the Coolie to contribute a sum of 35*s* towards his return passage.

I am of opinion that, whilst leaving the Coolie's first five years of industrial residence as prescribed by the existing law, the best course will be to enact that, as regards the sixth and subsequent years of the ten of residence, it shall be incumbent upon him, as a condition of his claim to a free passage, that he shall enter into contracts, each contract to be of not less than one year's duration, or that he shall pay 2*l.* 10*s.* for every one of those years during which he has not been under contract.

I trust that this arrangement will be satisfactory to the Colony, and that you will have but little trouble in framing a law for carrying it into effect.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 45.

No. 45.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. Labouchere to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 51.)

Sir, Downing Street, March 28, 1856.

In accordance with the recommendation made in your Despatch of the 24th January last, No. 9, I have to acquaint you that I have authorized the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to instruct the emigration agent in India to forward to British Guiana, during the season of 1856–7, any number of Coolie immigrants which, together with those which may have been sent this past season, shall not exceed 3,500 in the whole.

With reference to the request contained in your Despatch, No. 13, that Mr. Caird might be instructed to add to the amount of bounty offered to immigrants, I transmit to you an extract from a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners on the subject, and I have to acquaint you that I have authorized the Commissioners to instruct Mr. Caird in accordance with your request.

Enclosure. 6th March 1856.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 45.

Enclosure in No. 45.

Extract of Letter from Emigration Commissioners, dated 6th March 1856.

We do not doubt that Mr. Caird would consider himself at liberty, without any express authority, to raise the rate of bounty on Indian emigrants if he considered it prudent. But we see no reason why he should not receive that express authority. At the same time we must observe that we should not expect any great effect from raising the bounty much above the amount necessary to remove obstacles to emigration. So far as the Indians are influenced by intelligent motives, we should imagine their decision against or in favour of leaving their country would turn on the prospects which emigration appeared to open to them, and not (except in peculiar cases) on the question of gaining a few rupees. As this suggestion of Governor Wodehouse's is conditional on our having sufficient funds in our hands on account of the guaranteed loan, we have to state that we have at present at our command about 20,000*l.*, of which, however, about 9,000*l.* will be absorbed by payments on account of the two ships, the "Canning" and the "Empress Eugenie;" leaving about 11,000*l.* available for the emigration of 1856–7.

No. 46.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. Labouchere to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 52.)

Sir, Downing Street, March 28, 1856.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 25th January last, No. 10,* transmitting a memorial addressed to me by the inhabitants of Berbice, praying that private immigration may be permitted, and that immigrants may be sent to the port of New Amsterdam.

* Page 189.

As regards the first point, I request that you will convey an answer to the petitioners in the terms of the Despatch I addressed to you on the 31st December last, No. 15.†

† Page 82.

You will further inform them, with reference to the direct conveyance of immigrants to New Amsterdam, that this is a question entirely for the decision of the local authorities; but that I shall be ready to instruct the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to carry out whatever recommendations might reach me from yourself and the Court of Policy on the subject.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 47.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H Labouchere to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 70.)

Sir, Downing Street, April 25, 1856.

I transmit to you the copy of a Letter from the Emigration Commissioners, forwarding a list, prepared by Mr. Caird, of the Coolie ships despatched from Calcutta during the present season to British Guiana.

Enclosure. 14th April 1856.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 47.

Encl. in No. 47.

Sir, Emigration Office, April 14, 1856.

We transmit for the information of the Secretary of State, and for transmission to the Governors of British Guiana and Trinidad, a list which we have received from Mr. Caird of the Coolie ships despatched from Calcutta during the present season, which appears to have carried 643 souls to Trinidad and 976 to British Guiana. Excluding infants, and calculating the numbers by statute adults, the division of the sexes was as follows:—

Sub-Enclosure.

	Males.	Females.
British Guiana	661	254
Trinidad	449½	151
	1,110½	405

We have, &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta,
February 29, 1856.

RETURN of Ships and Emigrants despatched to the West India Colonies during the Season 1855–56.

Name of Ship.	Tonnage. Old.	Tonnage. New.	Contract Price.	Date on which placed at the disposal of Agent at Calcutta.	Date of Departure.	Embarked. Adults. Male.	Adults. Female.	Children. Male.	Children. Female.	Infants.	Total Souls.	Statute Adults.
			£ s. d.									
BRITISH GUIANA,—												
"Canning" - - -	–	1,021	14 10 0	1855. 17 Oct.	1855. 18 Oct.	212	76	15	9	8	320	300
"Empress Eugenie" -	–	875	12 0 0	1855. 2 Dec.	1855. 3 Dec.	214	80	8	4	9	315	300
"Thomas Hamlin" - -	–	832	11 16 0	1856. 15 Feb.	1856. 16 Feb.	211	88	25	7	10	341	315
TRINIDAD,—												
"Scindian" - -	–	800	11 4 4	1855. 15 Dec.	1855. 16 Dec.	177	64	9	9	8	267	250
"Agincourt" - -	–	1,000	—	1856. 18 Jan.	1856. 19 Jan.	261	76	14	13	10	374	350½
						1,075	384	71	42	45	1,517	1,515½

(Signed) T. CAIRD,
Emigration Agent.

No. 48.

No. 48.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 73.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 1, 1856.

14th April 1856. I TRANSMIT for your information an extract from a Report of the Emigration Commissioners, with a list of the ships which have been taken up to carry Coolies from Calcutta and Madras to British Guiana.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 48.

Enclosure in 48.

Extract. Emigration Office, April 14, 1856.

WE have to state, for the information of the Governor of British Guiana, that we have taken up the subjoined ships to carry Coolies from Calcutta and Madras to British Guiana.

Name of Ship.	Tonnage.	Price.	Port of Departure.	Date of Arrival.	Date of being placed at Disposal of Emigration Agent.
	New.	£ s. d.			
Bucephalus -	985	11 9 7	Calcutta.	1st Aug.	1st September.
Wellesley - -	1,013	10 17 0	Calcutta.	1st Sept.	1st October.
Stamboul - -	890	10 15 10	Madras.	1st Sept.	1st October.

No. 49.

No. 49.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 78.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 14, 1856.

WITH reference to your Despatches noted in the margin, respecting the introduction of Coolie immigrants from India by private individuals, I transmit for your information the copy of a letter from the India Board, from which you will perceive that your proposal cannot be adopted.

No. 137, 25 Sept. 1855.
145, 9 Oct. „
13, 26 Jan. 1856.

2nd May 1856. Enclosure.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 49.

Encl. in No. 49.

SIR, India Board, May 2, 1856.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for the affairs of India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, enclosing copy of a despatch from the Governor of British Guiana relating to a proposal for the introduction of Coolie labourers from India into that colony by private individuals.

In reply I am desired to inform you, that a copy of your letter and of its enclosures was forwarded for the consideration of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, who are of opinion that it would not be possible to guard by any regulations against the numerous abuses to which a system of emigration by means of private agency would be liable.

I am, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) GEORGE CLERK.

No. 50.

No. 50.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 86.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 31, 1856.

I TRANSMIT to you a copy of a letter from the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, having reference to the emigration of Coolies to the West Indies, together with a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom I directed Sir George Clerk's letter to be referred.

Encl. 1, 14th April 1856, page 375.

I approve of the several suggestions made by the Emigration Commissioners in their report, and I have informed the Commissioners for the Affairs of India that a copy of that report would be forwarded to you for the purpose of carrying these suggestions into effect.

Encl. 2, 14th May 1856, page 378.

I have to request that you will guide yourself accordingly.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 51.

No. 51.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 88.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 5, 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a letter from the Emigration Commissioners, in which they recommend, in compliance with the wish of certain merchants and planters, that Mr. Caird and the Agent at Madras should receive, in addition to their present salaries, a fee of two rupees per adult on all the emigrants despatched by them to the West Indies in any season above the amount of 2,000; and that in the case of the Madras agent that payment shall be in addition to his present fee of a rupee per adult on all emigrants shipped by him.

13th May 1856. Enclosure.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure in No. 51.

Encl. in No. 51.

SIR, Emigration Office, May 13, 1856.

WE have the honour to state that on the 9th instant a numerous deputation from the West India Committee waited on us with reference to a memorial which has been addressed to the Secretary of State, by the principal planters and merchants of British Guiana, and to discuss certain points respecting emigration.

2. In particular they urged the expediency of altering the mode in which Mr. Caird is at present remunerated. His salary is now 1,500*l.* a year, which is paid by Mauritius, and the different West India Colonies in the proportion in which emigrants are sent to each. But these gentlemen pointed out that as the recruiting for Mauritius is easy and that for the West Indies difficult, it would be very proper that Mr. Caird should receive a higher remuneration for emigrants sent to the latter destination, and they expressed an anxiety that the principle should be introduced of paying him by fees on the number introduced instead of by a fixed salary.

3. This desire had been previously communicated to us, and as it was the wish of the Committee to improve rather than deteriorate Mr. Caird's position, we suggested that their purpose would be answered without any inconvenient change of system if Mr. Caird were to receive, besides his present salary, a small additional fee on every emigrant despatched beyond a given number.

4. In this the Committee appear to have concurred, and the deputation expressed a wish that we would recommend to the Secretary of State that both Mr. Caird and the agent at Madras should receive a fee of two rupees per adult on all the emigrants despatched by him to the West Indies in any season above the amount of 2,000.

5. In the case of the Madras agent, this was to be in addition to his present fee of a rupee per adult on all emigrants shipped by him.

6. As these proposals proceed from gentlemen who have been always held to represent the persons interested in the expenditure of the Emigration Fund, we beg to recommend them for the favourable consideration of the Secretary of State.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 52.

No. 52.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 89.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 5, 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information the extract of a letter from the Land and Emigration Commissioners, enclosing list of ships which they have taken up for the conveyance of Coolies to British Guiana during the season 1856-7, together with the form of charter party which they have used.

Enclosure. 20 May 1856. Extract.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

Encl. in No. 52.

Enclosure in No. 52.

EXTRACT of Report from the Emigration Commissioners to H. Merivale, Esq., dated Emigration Office, May 20, 1856.

WE annex a list of all the ships which we have at present taken up for the conveyance of Coolies to British Guiana during the season 1856-7. They will probably carry between 1,300 and 1,400 souls, and may be very roughly estimated as likely to cost between 16,000*l.* and 18,000*l.*

Enclosure.

We also annex the form of charter party which we have used, copies of which we have also transmitted to the colonial authorities in British Guiana and Trinidad.

Sub-Encl. in No. 52.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 52.

LIST of Ships taken up by the Emigration Commissioners for the Conveyance of Indian Emigrants for British Guiana in the Season 1856-7.

Ship.	Tonnage.	Price per Adult.	Port of Embarkation.	Destination.	Date to be off Port of Embarkation.	Date to be ready for Passengers.
	Old. New.	£ s. d.			1856.	1856.
Bucephalus -	- 985	11 9 7	Calcutta	Demerara	1st August	1st September
Wellesley -	- 1,013	10 17 0	Ditto	Ditto	1st September	1st October
Stamboul -	- 890	10 15 10	Madras	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
Castle Eden	- 930	10 9 0	Ditto	Ditto	1st November	1st December

No. 53. No. 53.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 90.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 9, 1856.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 18th March last, No. 31,* reporting that you had received applications for 2,125 Coolies, besides the 3,500 who had been applied for last season. * Page 191.

I have to acquaint you, in reply, that I have authorized the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to instruct the emigration agents in India to forward 2,125 emigrants, in addition to those which they have already been instructed to send to British Guiana; provided they can be sent without interfering with the despatch of those previously ordered for other Colonies.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 54. No. 54.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 93.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 26, 1856.

I HAVE to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 53,† of the 28th April, referring to the Despatches which I considered it my duty to address to you respecting certain expressions used by you in your communications to the Court of Policy on the subject of immigration. † Page 194.

I have merely to observe that it does not appear necessary further to discuss the topics in question.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 55. No. 55.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 94.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 30, 1856.

IT having been represented to me that the rule laid down by my circular Despatch of the 19th March,‡ as regards the proportion of female to male immigrants to be introduced into the West Indies, might limit in a manner not intended the total number of immigrants allowed for each year, I have to acquaint you that I do not propose to maintain the proportion between the males of one year and the females of the year preceding, but that for the future the proportion to be enforced should be between the females and the males of each successive year, as follows;— ‡ Page 84.

In the seasons of 1856–7 and 1857–8, not less than one female to three male immigrants.

For the season of 1858–9 not less than one female to two males; leaving the proportion for subsequent seasons to be determined by future instructions.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 56. No. 56.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 100.)

SIR, Downing Street, July 1, 1856.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 28th April last, No. 51,§ in which you request to be informed whether it will be necessary, § Page 193.

BRITISH GUIANA.

in order to carry out the instructions contained in my Despatch, No. 50, of the 27th March last, as regards the 6th and following years of industrial residence to be required of Coolie immigrants, to alter the provisions of the existing law on the subject, namely, Sec. 53 of the Ordinance No. 7 of 1854.

Enclosure.

I transmit to you for your information, an extract from a Report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom I caused a copy of your Despatch to be referred.

If, as I see no reason to doubt, the Commissioners are correct in their opinion as to the effect of the present Ordinance, it would inflict great hardship on those Coolies who have been brought into the colony on the condition that, after performing ten years' industrial residence, they could receive a free passage back to their country; and the Ordinance will therefore require amendment, in order fairly to carry into effect the terms of industrial residence laid down by my Despatch of the 27th March last.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 56.

Enclosure in No. 56.

Extract of letter from the Emigration Commissioners, dated Emigration Office, June 23, 1856.

In his Despatch of 27th March 1856, Mr. Labouchere expressed his opinion that it should be incumbent on the Coolie to pass the above period under contracts of not less than one year of duration, or that he should pay 2*l.* 10*s.* for every one of those years during which he had not been under contract. We presume it was intended that this payment should be made when he applied for his return passage.

Mr. Wodehouse requests to be informed whether it is absolutely necessary to alter the provisions of the existing law (Section 53 of No. 7 of 1854), which he states to carry out in substance Mr. Labouchere's directions, and to have been framed in conformity with the suggestions contained in the 11th paragraph of Sir George Grey's Despatch, No. 33 of 13th September 1854. Those suggestions were that the Coolie should receive a back passage on paying 35 dollars "with the alternative," in case the Indian Government objected to such a contribution, "of five annual contracts or the payment of 2*l.* 10*s.* for each year for which the Coolie shall not have worked under indenture." Mr. Labouchere's Despatch only differed from that of Sir George Grey in requiring the contracts to be of *not less than one year* in duration, while Sir George Grey required with greater stringency that they should be "*annual.*"

The section of the Ordinance to which Mr. Wodehouse refers imposes, first, the contribution of 35 dollars in case it should be sanctioned by the Indian Government. Secondly, it offers the alternative required by Sir George Grey, *in case the Indian Government should require it,* and it enacts, thirdly, that any immigrant who shall have served under indenture, "for the whole period of his residence in the colony," (such indenture being made according to certain prescribed forms, and subject to a payment from the employer of 7 dollars per annum,) shall then receive a free passage to India.

Governor Wodehouse seems to write under the impression that Coolies now imported will be treated as if the Indian Government had required the alternative suggested by Sir George Grey. But no such requirement has been made, and the provisions requiring that alternative are consequently inoperative. It follows that the Coolies now introduced will fall under the operation of the first and third only of the above provisions, and every applicant for a back passage will accordingly be required either to pay 35 dollars for his back passage, or to have served for the whole period of his residence, *i.e.*, for ten continuous years under the indentures provided for by the 53rd Section of the Ordinance.

If therefore any Coolie has been unindentured for a single year or less of his residence (even though it may have been regularly commuted under the 19th section of the Ordinance), or has been indentured in any form other than that which the law provides, he will irretrievably forfeit his right to a free back passage, and will have to pay, not a sum proportioned to the time wanting to complete 10 years' industrial residence, but the full amount of 35 dollars.

No. 57.

No. 57.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 104.)

SIR, Downing Street, July 21, 1856.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 28th April last, No. 52,* in reference to the rule laid down by my Circular Despatch of the

*Page 193.

19th March last, as regards the proportion of female to male immigrants to be introduced into the West Indies during the ensuing seasons. BRITISH GUIANA.

Feeling the validity of some of the objections which you have pointed out, I have substituted the rule which will have become known to you on the receipt of my Despatch of the 30th ultimo, No. 94.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 58. No. 58.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 108.)

SIR, Downing Street, July 26, 1856.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 61,* of the 23rd May, forwarding resolutions of the Combined Court, in which they remonstrate against the limitation to 350 of the number of Coolie immigrants which may be put on board any ship, and recommend the sanction of private immigration. I referred your Despatch to the Land and Emigration Commissioners, and I transmit for your information an extract from their Report upon the former subject. * Page 195. Enclosure. Extract, 9th July 1856.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 58. Encl. in No. 58.

EXTRACT of Report of Emigration Commissioners, dated 9th July 1856.

THE limit of 350 statute adults was fixed when our first charter parties were prepared, both to reduce the risk of loss from the probable difficulty of providing a ship with its full legal number of emigrants, and because it was considered that there would be great difficulty in maintaining order and discipline among a larger number. Mr. Caird subsequently advised a reduction of the limit on this latter ground to 300; but we thought it better not to make any alteration, and it has accordingly remained as originally fixed. We may add that although in the short voyage to America the large ships which carry great numbers are not less healthy than smaller ships, our experience in Australian emigration points to the conclusion that ships carrying more than 400 statute adults are less healthy on the longer voyage and through the tropics than those carrying a smaller number. Nevertheless, as Coolie emigration to the West Indies is now much better understood than when our charter parties were framed, and as larger ships have recently been engaged in it, we think it would be right to consult Mr. Caird as to the necessity of keeping, as at present, the restriction on the number to be put on board each ship. We shall accordingly request him to furnish us with a report on the subject.

No. 59. No. 59.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, to Lieut.-Governor BELL.

(Circular.)

SIR, Downing Street, August 6, 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a Despatch which has been addressed to the Earl of Clarendon by Her Majesty's Consul at the Cape de Verde Islands, stating that 328 emigrants have left those islands for Demerara, and that others will probably follow. 26th June 1856.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Bell, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Encl. in No. 59.

Enclosure in No. 59.

St. Vincent, Cape Verds,
June 26, 1856.

My Lord,

One of the results of the famine in these islands will be emigration, and as this, to a certain degree, will affect British interests, I conceive it my duty to offer on this occasion the following remarks:—

The principal authorities of these islands, however much they seemed hitherto disinclined to favour emigration from them, are, at the present time, too happy to avail themselves of such a ready means of disposing of a starving population, which they have not the means of feeding.

Two English vessels have already conveyed to Demerara 328 emigrants, and it is probable that, if good accounts are returned from these hereafter, a moderate, and perhaps constant, supply of labour will be found in these islands for that colony.

The inhabitants of these islands are a race of people of a class somewhat similar to the negroes of the coast of Africa, but much more intelligent, more laborious and docile. Their inclination to agricultural pursuits, and industrious habits, will, doubtless, render them, as free labourers, a most valuable acquisition upon the estates in British Guiana and West Indian colonies.

My predecessor was instructed unofficially to assist in promoting emigration to the West Indies, but, until the present time, the attempts which have been made to induce the inhabitants of these islands to emigrate were all unsuccessful. It is to be hoped that the present calamity may be attended with, at the least, this mitigation of its great evils—the pointing out to them a retreat from the frequent famines which periodically desolate these islands, where, at the same time, they would be enabled to better their condition, and be fairly recompensed for their labour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. Miller,
H. B. M. Consul.

The Earl of Clarendon,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 60.

No. 60.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 126.)

Sir,

Downing Street, August 23, 1856.

I have received your Despatch of the 10th ultimo, No. 88,* and I have to acquaint you in reply that I am at present in communication with the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, with reference to the opening of the port of Bombay to emigration to the West Indies. The result of this reference shall be duly communicated to you.

* Page 199.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

No. 61.

No. 61.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 135.)

Sir,

Downing Street, August 29, 1856.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 10th ultimo, No. 89,† transmitting a copy of a letter adressed to the Governor of Trinidad by Mr. Bernard, of that island, on the subject of Coolie immigration to Martinique.

† Page 199.

As regards the limitation of the number of Coolies from India to British Guiana, to be carried in any one ship, to 350, to which you advert, I have to refer you to my Despatch of the 26th ultimo, No. 108,‡ from the enclosure to which you will have learnt that the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners had called for a Report from Mr. Caird on this subject.

‡ Page 93.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

No. 62.

No. 62.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 147.)

Sir, Downing Street, September 19, 1856.

I transmit to you for your information an extract from a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, having reference to the claims they will be called upon to meet, arising out of Coolie emigration to British Guiana.

Extract. 8th Sept. 1856.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 62.

Encl. in No. 62.

Extract of letter from Emigration Commissioners, dated September 8, 1856.

For British Guiana we have ourselves taken up five ships (independently of the conditional engagement of a return Coolie ship, the "Empress Eugenie,") and one, the "Blue Jacket," has been chartered at Madras. These six ships may carry about 2,000 adults, and cost about 22,000*l.* for freight and 4,000*l.* for Indian expenses.

Mr. Caird has been also instructed to procure the despatch to British Guiana, from Calcutta and Madras if possible, of so many emigrants as will on the whole make up the number of 4,300. If this number is sent out, the expense of the emigration of 1856–57 will probably be little short of 56,000*l.*

The charter-parties of ships engaged for British Guiana provide that the freight shall be paid by the governor of the colony either by bills on this Board at 90 days sight, or at the governor's option by an amount of cash equivalent to such bills at the current rate of exchange upon London. The freights of last season were not paid by us, and we conclude therefore that they have been, and that the freights of the ensuing season will be, paid in cash in the colony. The funds now in our hands amount to about 21,000*l.*, out of which we shall have to pay about 2,500*l.* for the Indian expenses of 1855–56, and 3,500*l.* for the "Empress Eugenie," leaving a balance of 15,000*l.* applicable to subsequent emigration. Of this sum 8,600*l.* at the utmost may be required for Indian expenses of 1856–57. The remaining 6,400*l.* will probably be left in our hands towards the freights of any future return Coolie ships which it will generally be convenient to pay through this Board. The Colonial Government, however, can, if they desire, draw bills on us for 6,500*l.* If they draw for any larger sum their bills must be accompanied by remittances, for sending which the above reservation of 90 days leaves ample time.

No. 63.

No. 63.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 148.)

Sir, Downing Street, September 19, 1856.

In my Despatch of the 4th May last, No. 78,* I informed you that the Court of East India Directors were not prepared to sanction the introduction of Coolie immigrants from India by private individuals.

* Page 89.

The question was again brought before me by the receipt of your Despatch of the 8th April, No. 39,† in which you forwarded a memorial from planters and others, praying that private immigration might be permitted; and I was subsequently waited upon by a deputation of West India proprietors, by whom a compliance with this application was, amongst other matters, urged upon me. I enclose for your information a copy of a letter received from the deputation.

† Page 192.

Although the plan of immigration proposed by the memorialists was a modification of the plan which the Court of Directors had previously refused to entertain, I requested that the question might be again brought before them, and I enclose you a copy of the letter addressed to the Commissioners for the Affairs of India with this view, together with a copy of the answer received in reply, from which you will find that the Court of Directors have

28th May 1856. Enclosure 1.

8th August 1856. Enclosure 2.

BRITISH GUIANA. 4th Sept. 1856. Enclosure 3.

signified their willingness to submit the matter for the consideration of the Government of India. I accordingly have directed the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to prepare such regulations as they may consider adapted for carrying into effect a scheme of immigration by private parties, a copy of which, when received, I will forward to you for any observations you may wish to offer upon them.

In conclusion, I have to request that you will inform the gentlemen by whom the memorial already referred to was signed that it was duly received, and that I only postponed its acknowledgment until I could communicate to them the results of the reference to the Court of Directors as regarded private immigration, which result you will now be enabled to make known to them.

As regards emigration from China and Africa, to which the memorialists advert, the Despatches already addressed to you will enable you to communicate to them the views of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. 1 in No. 63.

Enclosure 1 in No. 63.

To the Right Hon. HENRY LABOUCHERE, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c. &c.

West India Committee Rooms, Walbrook House,
37, Walbrook, May 28, 1856.

SIR,

ACCORDING to your desire, we beg to enclose a recapitulation of the points we had the honour of submitting to your consideration on Tuesday the 20th instant.

Memorial from B. Guiana.

We sought that interview chiefly for the purpose of supporting a memorial drawn up at one of the most influential meetings ever convened in British Guiana, and which accords with the views of the present as well as of the late Governor of that Colony.

Immigration Ordinance, No. 7, 1854.

The first prayer of the memorialists is, that Her Majesty's Government will give effect to clauses 5 and 13 of the Immigration Ordinance 7 of 1854, which are practically suspended, though the Ordinance itself has received Her Majesty's sanction.

Clause 5.

We represented that clause 5 admits private enterprise under certain restrictions, and in two ways.

1st. The simple conveyance in private ships of emigrants, collected at the port, by the Government emigration agent.

2nd. The collection as well as conveyance of emigrants in all places where no emigration agent has been appointed.

Conveyance.

With regard to the first you expressed yourself satisfied that the regulations for the protection of emigrants on the passage and in the colony were such that abuse was morally impossible, and we were led to hope, that no further objections would be made to this method.

Collection.

With regard to the second, you stated, that the abuses which had taken place precluded the possibility of any relaxation of the present restrictions. We took the liberty of pointing out that the evils to which you referred had occurred nearly 20 years ago.

That the clause itself was very cautiously worded, and did not permit private speculators to make a trade of emigration, for the only parties allowed to import labourers were *owners of estates*, and even they were obliged to procure a licence from the Governor, who might demand any security he pleased for the proper management of the undertaking.

That every emigrant when brought to the port of shipment might be examined through an interpreter, by the proper official, and if any fraud or ill treatment were discovered, might be sent back at the expense of the collector, and that in this way certainty of detection and loss would undoubtedly prevent malpractices by subordinate agents. We felt that these arguments were not without their effect, but we heard with consternation that the Honourable East India Company had positively refused to sanction the collection

Bombay.

of emigrants by private enterprise in Bombay, where we had been led to believe that an opportunity of proving the practicability of the scheme would have been afforded. Failing this we urged that you would be pleased at once to appoint an emigration agent at that port, and allow private parties at least to convey labourers from thence in their own ships.

We venture again most respectfully to press for this concession, knowing that large quantities of agricultural labourers are desirous of emigrating, and that it is the port at which the Australian ships, peculiarly adapted for carrying passengers, most frequently call on their homeward voyage.

Clause 13.

With regard to clause 13, we were informed, as indeed we had previous reason to believe, that it was not intended to apply to contracts made with the natives of the Cape

de Verde Islands, Madeira, or the Azores. You stated, however, that Her Majesty's Government was still opposed to African emigration. BRITISH GUIANA. Madeira, &c. Africa.

We took leave to remark that many of the objections to this, and other kinds of emigration, were merely theoretical or advanced by officials on the spot, who dreaded an increase of work and responsibility; that under proper restrictions an active emigration might be conducted from Sierra Leone, to the great benefit of the natives and liberated slaves, as well as of the colonies.

The next prayer of the memorialists was, that the time limited for indentures by clause 14 might be extended to 10 years. Clause 14. We were here stopped at the outset by your stating that Her Majesty's Government had resolved to disallow emigration from China altogether, China. in consequence of the representations of Sir J. Bowring that any abuse attending it might interfere with the amicable relations of the two countries.

We ventured to reply that no abuse could take place under the system of checks before described, that Sir John Bowring's fears arose from the gross frauds and outrages which occurred in the unregulated collection of emigrants for Cuba and Peru.

That Sir J. Bowring's predecessor, Sir George Bonham, had entertained a very different opinion, and that the latter as Governor of Singapore, as well as Hong Kong, had ample means of knowing the value of the Chinese as agricultural labourers, a value fully appreciated in the West Indies. That the only real evil, the deficiency of females, was always experienced early in emigration, and that if the emigration of men continued the women eventually followed. Emigration of Females.

That the Indian women had already begun to arrive in larger quantities in the West Indies, and that a shipload of Chinese women had been reported at Rio.

We stated that we believed these demands would eventually be conceded, as similar objections were formerly entertained, first to emigration altogether, and afterwards to regulations for the control of the immigrants; but that these delays on the part of Her Majesty's Government in assisting our exertions had already drained our resources, by forcing us at one time to pay at the rate of one shilling an hour for Creole labour, by depriving us of all benefit from the earlier shipments of Indians, and enabling France to forestall us in Madeira. That we are now obliged, while our property is wasting away, to see all employers but those under the British flag availing themselves of the superabundant labour of Africa and China, and this though it cannot be denied that immigrants to the British colonies have an infinitely better fate than those to any foreign country.

We would therefore respectfully urge upon you the necessity of granting the prayer of the memorialists before it is too late, and of repairing former injuries by giving the guarantee of the Imperial Government to the emigration loans of the colony. Guaranteed loans.

As deeply affecting the prosperity of the colony, though not alluded to in the memorial, we invited your attention to the unsatisfactory state of the Creole negroes in British Guiana, evidenced not only by their degraded social state, but by their almost entire withdrawal from labour, by their subsisting chiefly on plunder, and by their disgraceful conduct in the late riots, which have cost the colony 70,000*l.* sterling. Creole negroes.

We endeavoured to show the policy of strengthening the hands of the Governor, by allowing him to take the stringent measures necessary for reducing to order this refractory population.

We pointed out the danger of leaving the colony garrisoned only by black troops, a force of very uncertain temper, especially since the practice of recruiting from the Creole negroes has been adopted. Black troops.

We explained that four days at least must elapse before the arrival of white troops from Barbadoes; that the sad events of the present year, when the colony was preserved from greater loss by the accidental presence of foreign ships of war, showed the fearful mischief which might occur within that time; and we mentioned that a few companies of white troops stationed in the colony, exempted from sentry duty and any other work of an unhealthy nature, would be most valuable, not only as a check upon the black soldiers, but also as an evidence of the determination of the English Government to maintain its authority in the colony.

You kindly promised, Sir, to give these various points your careful consideration, and we took the liberty of thanking you for the patient attention with which you had favoured the deputation.

Signed on behalf of the Deputation,
STEPHEN CAVE.

Enclosure 2 in No. 63. Encl. 2 in No. 63.

SIR, Downing Street, August 8, 1856.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d May last, informing him that the Court of East India Directors were of opinion that it would not be possible to guard by any regulations against the numerous abuses to which a system of emigration from India to the West Indies, by means of private agency would be liable.

I am to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, and for that of the Court of East India Directors, a copy of a memorial signed by many planters, merchants, &c., of British Guiana, praying for the introduction of immigrants

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by private parties. I am also to enclose an extract from a letter from the West India Committee, in which they state that they had learnt with regret that the Court of Directors had refused their sanction to such an emigration, and they then express a hope that Mr. Labouchere would be pleased to appoint an emigration agent at Bombay, and would allow private parties at least to convey labourers thence in their own ships.

The Commissioners and the Court of Directors will perceive that the emigration now prayed for by the memorialists and by the Committee is a modification of the plan already submitted to and refused by the Court of Directors, and that it is proposed that clauses 5 and 13 of the British Guiana Ordinance No. 7 of 1854, which the Governor was specially instructed not to bring into operation without the express sanction of Her Majesty's Government, should now be acted on; and that owners of estates in that colony should thus be licensed to import immigrants under written contracts made in India, for periods not exceeding three years; such contracts being duly certified by the Protector of Immigrants in India.

Mr. Labouchere would be glad to be informed whether the Court of Directors are prepared to entertain the modified proposal now submitted to them. He is of opinion that by the appointment of a Protector of Immigrants by the Indian Government, and by the appointment of an emigration agent by Her Majesty's Government, to whom should be entrusted the entire superintendence and control of the emigration (as is now done at Calcutta and Madras), it would be quite possible to organize such a system of emigration in private ships as would not be open to the objections to which a system of open emigration by private parties is liable. If the Court of Directors should not have an insurmountable objection to such a measure, Mr. Labouchere would be prepared to submit for their consideration the regulations under which he would recommend that the emigration should be conducted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. MERIVALE.

Encl. 3 in No. 63.

Enclosure 3 in No. 63.

SIR, India Board, September 4, 1856.

IN reference to your letter addressed to me, dated the 8th of August last, together with its enclosures, on the subject of emigration of Coolies from Bombay to the West Indies, proposed to be undertaken by private agency, I am directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to transmit to you, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Dickenson, of the India House, to the Secretary of this Board, dated the 28th ult., in which it is stated that the Court of Directors will, on receipt of the regulations proposed by Mr. Labouchere, transmit them, together with copies of the previous correspondence on the subject, for the consideration and opinion of the Government of India.

Sub-Enclosure.

I am therefore to request that you will forward to this Board the before-mentioned regulations, with a view to their transmission to the Court of Directors.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE CLERK.

H. Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure.

SIR, East India House, August 28, 1856.

I HAVE laid before the Court of Directors the further letter from Sir George Clerk, dated the 14th inst., forwarding a letter addressed to him by Mr. Merivale, dated 8th August 1856, together with its enclosures,* on the subject of emigration of Coolies from Bombay to the West Indies, to be undertaken by private agency, and requesting that the opinion of the Court may be furnished to the Board, for communication to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

* Memorial by Planters, Merchants, &c., of British Guiana. Extract from letter of West Indian Committee, May 28, 1856.

2. The emigration now prayed for by the memorialists and the committee is a modification of the plan which was refused by the Court of Directors, under date 1st May last, and by it is proposed that the clauses 5 and 13 of the British Guiana Ordinance No. 7, 1854, should be acted on, and that owners of estates in that colony should thus be licensed to import immigrants under written contracts made in India for periods not exceeding three years, such contracts being duly certified by the protector of immigrants in India.

3. Mr. Labouchere is of opinion that by the appointment of a protector of emigrants by the Indian Government, and by the appointment of an emigration agent by Her Majesty's Government, to whom should be intrusted the entire superintendence and control of the emigration (as is now done at Calcutta and Madras), it would be quite possible to organize such a system of emigration in private ships as would not be open to the objections to which a system of open emigration by private parties is liable; and should the Court not have an insurmountable objection to such a measure, it is represented by Mr. Merivale that Mr. Labouchere would submit for their consideration the regulations under which he would recommend that the emigration should be conducted.

4. In reply, I am commanded to state, that although the Court continue to be of opinion that it will be impossible to guard effectually against the abuses to which a system of emigration by private agency must be liable, they will nevertheless be prepared, on the

receipt of the regulations proposed by Mr. Labouchere, to transmit them, together with a copy of the previous correspondence on the subject, for the opinion of the Government of India.

I have, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) G. D. DICKENSON.

No. 64.

No. 64.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 150.)

SIR, Downing Street, September 24, 1856.

IN reply to your Despatch No. 104, of the 13th August last, transmitting certain resolutions passed at a public meeting, in which objections were urged against the restrictions placed on Coolie immigration, I have to refer you to my Despatch No. 108 of the 26th July last.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 65.

No. 65.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 165.)

SIR, Downing Street, October 22, 1856.

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 148,* of the 19th ult., I transmit to you for any remarks you may have to offer upon it, the accompanying copy of a report from the Emigration Commissioners, containing the regulations which they have drawn up with the view of carrying into effect the proposed scheme of emigration of Coolies from India, to be conducted by private parties.

* Page 95.

10th Oct. 1856.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 65.

Encl. in No. 65.

SIR, Emigration Office, October 10, 1856.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 20th ultimo, transmitting copies of a correspondence which has taken place between the Secretary of State and the Commissioners for the Affairs of India respecting emigration from Bombay to the West Indies.

2. It was originally proposed to establish a system of emigration from Bombay, which should be conducted entirely by private persons under the superintendence of Government. This being considered objectionable by the Court of Directors, the West Indian Committee expressed a hope that proprietors of estates might be allowed to introduce Coolies in their own ships, under the terms of the British Guiana Ordinance No. 7 of 1854, §§ 5 and 13; such Coolies, however, being collected and placed on board by a Government agent. The Court of Directors are willing that this proposal should be referred to the Indian Government, and in order to this reference Mr. Labouchere desires us to frame such regulations as appear to us requisite to carrying into effect such a scheme of emigration.

3. The following are the provisions of the British Guiana Ordinance to which it is desired to give effect.

Sec. 5. "Any person who, having first obtained a licence to that effect from the "Governor (which licence the Governor shall grant or refuse at his discretion), shall "introduce at his own expense immigrants under written contract with him for service "upon his own plantation, shall be entitled to receive from the immigration funds at and "after the rates following,

* * * * * *

"For each Indian immigrant a sum not exceeding £30, or such other sum as may "from time to time be duly declared by resolution of the Governor and Court of Policy, "provided that the party applying for such licence as aforesaid shall give to the Governor "such security as he may require for the carrying out the object of such licence, and "that the number of such immigrants paid for shall not exceed the numbers stated in the "licence to be granted to such person as aforesaid."

Sec. 13. "Unless by permission of Her Majesty's Government previously had and "obtained, no contract entered into by any employer with any immigrant from any part "of India, or from any part of the African Continent, or from the Island of Madagascar,

BRITISH GUIANA.

" or from any other Island adjacent to the Coast of the African Continent, and inhabited " by the Negro race, shall be valid, unless the same shall have been made within this " Colony."

4. The result of these ordinances and the modifications suggested by the West Indian Committee is that owners of plantations licensed by the Governor, and giving security for the carrying out of their undertaking, are at liberty to ship at Bombay under Government inspection emigrants collected by a Government officer, and bound to serve on the importer's estates in British Guiana under contract permitted by "Her Majesty's Government." And for every immigrant so introduced the importer is for the present to receive a bounty of £30.

5. In submitting regulations on this subject it will probably be most convenient to keep those which are necessary for the protection of the emigrants, and therefore to be considered by the Indian Government, distinct from such as are merely calculated to secure the service against confusion, misunderstanding, and expense, which are mainly for the consideration of the authorities of British Guiana.

6. The following regulations appear to us calculated to secure the former object.

7. I. Every licence issued by the Governor should lay down certain rules as to the treatment of the Coolies while on the voyage. In particular it should be provided that the space required by the Indian law (viz., 12 feet per statute adult) should be allowed to the emigrants in the between decks, and also such part of the upper deck as should be set apart for them by the Protector at Bombay; that issues of food and water should be made according to the annexed scale (taken from our charter-parties) or such other scale as may be authorized by the Protector; that they shall receive the requisite medicine and medical attendance, shall not be allowed to purchase spirituous liquors; that no intercourse should be allowed between the crew and the females on board, and that the emigrants generally should be subjected to no ill-usage. And the licence should enter into a bond with two sureties under a penalty of (say) 2,000*l.* for the performance of these conditions, and against insuring the bounty.

Sub-Enclosure.

8. II. No emigrant ship should clear out without authority of the Protector of Emigrants, who should not give that authority till he has ascertained that all the emigrants are leaving their country voluntarily, that their contracts of service are in the approved form, and that they have an adequate understanding of the nature of these contracts, and generally of what they are doing; that the ship in which they are embarked is seaworthy, and provided with all things proper for the voyage—with the requisite fittings, stores, and medicines, with a European surgeon, and with an interpreter approved by the Protector; that the between decks are properly ventilated; that proper space is allowed for the emigrants there, and on the upper deck, for exercise; and that the required proportion of females is placed on board. The Protector should also sign and deliver to the Master, for production to the authorities at British Guiana, a list of the emigrants placed on board, on which he should endorse any information which it is desirable to communicate to those authorities.

9. III. An emigration agent should be appointed by the Secretary of State to transact all business connected with the collection and embarkation of the emigrants, including the employment of selecting agents, the bringing emigrants to Bombay, the keeping them there, and the placing them on board; but not extending to any part of the shipping arrangements. The duties of this officer (who would be virtually no more than a licensed collector of emigrants) would be performed subject to the constant inspection of the Protector who should at all times have access to the depôt and the emigrants, and every facility for ascertaining the propriety of the proceedings.

10. IV. The immigration agent and health officer at British Guiana would, according to their usual practice, board and examine every Bombay ship on its arrival, would ascertain the number of deaths and sick persons on board, and, as far as possible, the treatment of the Coolies during the voyage. No bounty should be paid on any person who was then found to be so sick as to be, in the opinion of the immigration agent, unequal to work; and, from the amount of bounty due on those who were landed in good health, 5*l.* should be deducted for every person who had died on the voyage. In case it should be found that the emigrants had not been treated according to the terms of the licence, the circumstances should be reported to the Governor, who should be empowered to punish the breach of condition by withholding the bounty, which, under the bond, is an uninsurable risk, by cancelling the indentures of the Coolies, and allotting them to other employers, and, if he should think fit, by enforcing the penalty reserved by the bond.

11. V. The report of the immigration agent and health officer on every ship, and the proceedings taken upon it by the authorities, should be communicated to the Secretary of State.

12. With regard to the deduction of 5*l.* on persons dying on the voyage, we have to observe that this deduction, with the loss of the bounty of £30, would together constitute a penalty of 11*l.*, which is about the loss incurred by ship-owners under our charter-parties for every adult who dies on board. The importance of such a penalty, in securing the proper treatment of the emigrants, is obvious; and we think that the refusal of bounty on those who are landed in ill health is not less valuable.

13. We should hope that the above regulations, with such improvements as the Indian Government or future experience may suggest, would sufficiently protect the emigrants.

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We feel more difficulty in suggesting a mode of conducting the service which shall be satisfactory to the proposed licencees without imposing impossibilities on the emigration agent, or risking material loss to the Colonial Treasury.

14. It is evident that the Colonial Legislature did not contemplate expending on the bounty emigration more than the amount of the bounty; and therefore that the cost of collection (though effected by a Government officer) should be paid by the importer.

15. The first question, therefore, is, how this cost is to be defrayed. It appears on the one hand, that since it is not certain that Coolies will always be forthcoming when they are wanted, the licencee cannot be expected to enter into any definitive obligation to supply ships, still less to pay in advance for the collection of the people; and, on the other hand, the emigration agent cannot be expected to advance large sums of money in collecting emigrants on the chance of recovering his money from the shipowner, whose ship may never even arrive at Bombay. It seems, therefore, most convenient that the Colonial Government should, in the first instance, pay to the emigration agent both his advances and his remuneration, recovering the money so expended from the licencees. And this course has the further advantage that by it the emigration agent will retain the character of a Government officer more completely than if he were paid directly by the shippers of the emigrants.

16. The mode of securing as well the repayment of these advances as the general regularity of the service, is a matter, perhaps, for the consideration of the Governor and Court of Policy, who will defray the cost, control the progress, and suffer from the mismanagement of the experiment; and who also know what arrangements will press least on their fellow-colonists who undertake it. The most simple expedient would be that of reducing the bounty to the extent of the estimated cost of collection, say to £20. But in this case all money spent in collecting emigrants for licencees who failed to carry them off would be lost, and the estimate of cost must also be (at present) of the most uncertain kind.

17. But in case (as we should anticipate) a more accurate method should be thought desirable, we would submit for the consideration of the authorities in British Guiana the following suggestions:—

18. (1) The emigration agent should receive from the Colonial Government (either directly or through this Board) the amount actually expended by him in collecting, maintaining, or embarking emigrants, together with a fixed fee on every emigrant who was either actually despatched by him, or having been brought to Bombay for despatch in pursuance of orders sent from the colony, was sent back to his country on failure of shipping. This fee should be sufficient to remunerate him for his trouble, and to cover those office expenses which it would be difficult to apportion to particular ships. We should imagine a sum of three rupees per adult would be a reasonable remuneration. But on this point it would be well to consult the Bombay Government.

19. (2) The licencee's bond should oblige him, whether the Coolies whom he is authorized to introduce are in fact despatched or not, to repay all expenses certified by the Emigration Agent to have been incurred in collecting them, including the above fee.

20. (3) The emigration agent at Bombay should, on the departure of each ship, endorse on the Protector's list of emigrants, and also transmit by post to the Governor of British Guiana a certificate of the above expenses, which on the arrival of the emigrants would be deducted from the bounty payable on them.

21. (4) At the end of every season the emigration agent should transmit to the Governor a statement of the expenses incurred, under orders from the colony, in collecting Coolies who did not actually embark; and the Governor should recover from the licencees, or their sureties, under their bonds, all expenses incurred in respect of any Coolies who for this or any other reason had not actually arrived in the colony.

22. The risk that ships may be sent to Bombay, and that the Agent may be unable to fill them without delay, or indeed at all, may, we fear, occasion disappointment and complaint. It is, however, a risk inherent in the nature of the scheme, and against which it is impossible to guarantee the licencees. It may, however, be considerably lessened by a sparing issue of licences, and by arrangements between the Governor, the licencees, and the emigration agent, respecting the time at which the ships are to arrive at Bombay, and the order in which they are to be filled.

23. We would recommend that if these regulations should be satisfactory to the Indian Government, the Government of Bombay should be requested to determine the mode in which the Protector of Emigrants is to be paid, to suggest to the Secretary of State the name of a gentleman capable of acting as emigration agent, and to state whether the proposed rate of payment would be for the present reasonable. It would, perhaps, be in some respects convenient that the officer who has hitherto acted for Mauritius should act also for the West Indies.

24. And it might expedite the settlement of the question in this country if Governor Wodehouse would report what course he would propose to take, both with a view to recovering from the licencees the money advanced in collecting emigrants, and to diminishing the risk that Coolies are brought to Bombay when there are no ships to take them off, or vice versâ. And we would suggest that he should also forward, for the satisfaction of the Court of Directors, and for the approval of the Government, a copy of the proposed form of contract, with such explanations as may show the wages and advantages which will be secured to Coolies imported by private parties.

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25. We take the opportunity of pointing out, that in bringing the 5th Section of the Ordinance into operation, it should be made clear whether the bounty of £30 is to be calculated *per head* or *per adult*, or on those capable of labour only.

We have, &c.

(Signed) C. ALEXANDER WOOD.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure.

Proportion of Provisions, Firewood, and Water necessary for a Ship conveying Emigrants from the East to the West Indies.

Quantity of Provisions, per diem, to be issued to each Immigrant.

Rice, Balam	20 ozs.	Onions, old Patna	½ oz.
Doll, Patna Urhwr	4 ozs.	Tobacco, Smoking	½ oz.
Ghee, good Buffaloe	1 oz.	Tobacco, old leaf	½ oz.
Oil, pure Mustard	½ oz.	Chilies, Patna	½ oz.
Salt, Country, Middling White	1 oz.	Tamarind, old	2 oz.
Turmeric, bright yellow	½ oz.	Goor, cane	1 oz. every 2nd day.
Water	1 Gallon per diem.		

FIREWOOD—for 100 persons or less,	lbs. 400	per day.
100 „ to 200,	600	„
200 „ to 300,	700	„
300 „ to 400,	800	„

No. 66.

No. 66.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 172.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 11, 1856.

Enclosure. 31st Oct. 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information a copy of a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, relative to the limitation to 350 of the number of Coolies to be put on board any ship for the West Indies.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 66.

Enclosure in No. 66.

SIR, Emigration Office, October 31, 1856.

* Page 93.

WITH reference to our report of the 9th * of July last, relative to the limitation to 350 of the number of Coolies to be put on board any ship for the West Indies, we have the honour to submit herewith, for Mr. Secretary Labouchere's information, a copy of the report which we have received on the subject from Mr. Caird.

No. 20, 6th Sept. Sub-Enclosure.

2. It will be seen that both Mr. Caird and the Protector of Emigrants dissuade any relaxation of this rule as likely to be injurious to the health of the emigrants and the discipline of the ship. Under ordinary circumstances we should be disposed to defer to their opinions, but the extraordinary statements recently received as to the numbers carried from Pondicherry to Martinique, and the absence of sickness on board, make us hesitate in concluding that an increased number on board of ships from Calcutta need cause an increased mortality; upon that point we shall await with anxiety the more detailed particulars which we suggested, in our report of the 21st of August last, that the British Consuls at Pondicherry and Martinique should be required to furnish. But unless the expected information should be conclusive, we do not think it would be safe to overrule the opinion of so experienced an officer as Mr. Caird.

3. If the information received from the consuls should remove any fear in regard to the health of an increased number, there would not we think be any difficulty in providing for the discipline of the larger ships by appointing an assistant to the chief surgeon whenever the number exceeded a fixed limit. The expense of the additional surgeon would be as nothing compared with the saving effected in freights by completing the larger ships to the complement which their space and tonnage would allow them to embark.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
C. ALEXANDER WOOD.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 66.

Sub-Encl. to Encl. in No. 66.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta,
September 6, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of the 9th July last, requesting to be informed whether I consider it necessary that the limit of 350 *adult* emigrants should still be maintained as the outside number any one vessel should be allowed to carry from this port to the West Indies.

2. In reply I beg to state that I concur with the Protector of Emigrants (vide Enclosure marked A.) in thinking that a larger number than 350 adults should on no occasion be placed on board any vessel.

3. It is proposed this year to erect a platform in the between decks of West India ships (similar to that now in use in Mauritius ships), and this arrangement will afford each person so much additional space, and tend so much to their general health and comfort, that one of the chief objections I have hitherto had to giving more than 300 to a ship has in consequence been removed.

4. It will, however, be necessary in future, when chartering large ships in England (say for 350 adults), to fix a longer interval, of not less than six weeks, between the departure of each vessel from Calcutta, in consequence of the difficulty of collecting the required percentage of females within a shorter period. Vessels which will carry from 250 to 300 adults are a much more convenient size than those which carry a larger number, and one great objection which still exists to engaging ships to convey above 300, is the long detention of many of the recruiters at the depôt, who cannot be sent out in search of fresh Coolies until those whom they have first brought in have taken their departure. Much of the recruiter's time therefore is lost at the depôt, when he might be better employed outside.

5. You will observe by Enclosure B. that the Mauritius Government have now limited the number of Coolies by any one vessel to 300, except in particular cases when there may be a great scarcity of shipping. And I have not found the new rule as yet operate in any way prejudicially to the interests of that Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. CAIRD,
Emigration Agent.

S. Walcott, Esq.,
&c. &c.

A.

A.

Protector's Office,
Fort William, August 22, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 108, dated the 20th instant, annexing copy of one to your address from the Secretary to the Emigration Commissioners in London, under date the 9th July last, on the subject of the number of emigrants to be allowed to a ship from this port to the West India Colonies.

2. With reference to the above, I have the honour to state that, owing to the recent plan of putting up a platform in the between decks of ships for the conveyance of emigrants, which gives additional space, I consider these vessels should in future be allowed to carry 350 adults; but I would not advise a larger number than 350 being placed on board any vessel, as I consider it would be injurious to the health of the people, and more than the surgeon could properly attend to, though the platform will materially tend to preserve the health of the emigrants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES SUTHERLAND,
Official Protector of Emigrants.

T. Caird, Esq.,
Emigration Agent.

B.

B.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Mauritius, October 20, 1855.

SIR,

IT having been represented to His Excellency the Governor, that the employment of vessels of large tonnage for the purposes of immigration is calculated to cause much loss and inconvenience to the Government of this Colony, in the event of its becoming necessary to place such vessels in quarantine; I am directed by His Excellency to request that you will in future avoid engaging large vessels, and take care that the number of immigrants embarked in any one ship does not exceed 300 (three-hundred) adults.

His Excellency, however, thinks that an exception should be made to this rule in particular cases, viz., when there is a great scarcity of shipping, and opportunities of the larger class of vessels only offering.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Emigration Agent,
Calcutta.

BRITISH GUIANA. EXTRACT of a Report from the Chief of the Medical Department at Mauritius to His Excellency the Governor, dated November 8, 1855.

"IT is to be observed, that the number of persons embarked is large, 347, and that "they embarked in the month of August, a period of the year in which fever and dysentery "are rife in countries north of the line, and within the tropic.

"The 'Sultana' and 'Blue Jacket' have since arrived under similar circumstances, and "still more unhealthy; from which it may be inferred, as might also be expected, that the "embarkation of immigrants in large masses is, particularly at the autumnal season, preju- "dicial to their health, even although they have the full allowance of cubic space per "man."

(Signed) G. CLERIHEN, M.D.

(Signed) T. CAIRD, Emigration Agent.

No. 67.

No. 67.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 173.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 11, 1856.

* Page 202. I HAVE received your Despatch No. 123,* of the 9th September, with a Proclamation which you had issued fixing the rates of bounties to be paid on the importation of immigrants into British Guiana, under the provisions of the Ordinances No. 7. of 1854 and No. 25 of 1856.

I transmitted your Despatch to the Emigration Commissioners, and they will make known to shipowners, according to your desire, the rates of bounty offered in the Proclamation to immigrants from Madeira and the Cape de Verde Islands.

With regard, however, to the Chinese, I have to point out to you that, as the bounty emigration from China has been discontinued, it will be necessary that the Proclamation should be withdrawn and another issued, omitting the bounty on this description of immigrants. For the same reason, the Emigration Commissioners have been directed to except the bounty on Chinese and ports east of Point de Galle from their advertisements to shipowners.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 68.

No. 68.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 180.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 24, 1856.

† Page 202. IN reply to your Despatch, No. 118,† of the 6th September, forwarding two Ordinances, Nos. 22 and 23 of 1856, I have to convey to you Her Majesty's confirmation and allowance of Ordinance No. 22 of 1856, intituled

No. 22 of 1856. "An Ordinance to legalize the payment of bounty to Indian Immigrants "entitled to back passages on certain conditions."

In reference to this Ordinance, I observe that it authorizes you to commute return passages not only "during the next two or three years," but in the case of all immigrants introduced under the Ordinance No. 7 of 1854. To this alteration I imagine that no valid objection can be urged; at the same time, the wording of the Ordinance leaves it open to doubt whether, at the expiration of the renewed industrial residence, the Coolies are entitled to their return passages; there can be no question that the ambiguity was undesigned; but it would be advisable that you should procure from the Court of Policy a specific assurance as to the real intention of this Ordinance.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 69.

No. 69.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 181.)

Sir, Downing Street, November 24, 1856.

I have to convey to you Her Majesty's confirmation and allowance of Ordinance No. 23 of 1856, intituled "An Ordinance for raising a Loan for "payment of bounty to Indian Immigrants;" and, in reference thereto, I transmit, for your information and guidance, a copy of a correspondence which has passed between this Department, the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, and the Board of Treasury, from which you will perceive that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury recommend that your attention should be called to the danger likely to arise to the interests of the Colony by imposing a heavy burthen upon the general revenue for the purpose of meeting a temporary exigency.

No. 23 of 1856.
Enclosure 1. 14th Oct. 1856.
Enclosure 2. 27th Oct. 1856.
Enclosure 3. 15th Nov. 1856.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 69.

Encl. 1 in No. 69.

Sir, Emigration Office, October 14, 1856.

We have to acknowledge your letter of the 8th instant, enclosing a Despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, in which he transmits for the sanction of Her Majesty two Ordinances, intituled,

No. 22. *An Ordinance to legalize the payment of bounty to Indian immigrants entitled to back passages on certain conditions.*

No. 23. *An Ordinance for raising a loan for payment of bounty to Indian immigrants.*

2. In his Despatch of November 3d, 1855,* Governor Wodehouse, adverting to the probability that the Indian immigration for that season might be deficient, requested that he might be authorized to pay bounties of £50 to such Coolies as might be willing to engage on those terms for a second industrial residence, raising the requisite funds in the first instance by a loan under the Ordinance No. 16 of 1855, but recovering it by instalments from the planters to whom the Indians might re-engage themselves. He also suggested that unless this loan were guaranteed by the Home Government it would not be necessary to refer it for the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury.

* Page 181.

3. Mr. Labouchere's Despatch of the 14th of December 1855† authorized Mr. Wodehouse to pass an Ordinance for the purpose of enabling him to offer the requisite bounty to such Coolies as might become entitled to their return passages during the then ensuing "2 or 3 years."

† Page 81.

4. The Ordinance No. 22 authorizes the Governor to offer a bounty of £50 to any adult and able-bodied immigrants, and to other immigrants a bounty of £25, on condition of their entering into fresh indentures, subject to the provisions of Ordinance No. 7 of 1854. The money thus advanced is to be repaid by the employers by instalments in the course of 5 years.

5. The Ordinance No. 23 declares the following persons, namely, the Government Secretary, the two senior elective members of the Court of Policy, the Colonial Receiver-General, and the Financial Accountant, to be Commissioners for the purpose of raising a loan for the payment of bounties not exceeding 50,000*l.* This sum is to be raised by bonds bearing not more than 6 per cent. interest, and if necessary sold at a discount (£3). The 9th section makes this new loan a charge on all the colonial revenues not already specially appropriated.

6. On the Ordinance No. 22 we have to observe that it authorizes the Governor to commute return passages not only "during the next two or three years," to which Mr. Labouchere's permission extended, but in the case of all immigrants introduced under the Ordinance No. 7 of 1854. As there is no reason to doubt that the commutations are really voluntary, and as they are evidently advantageous to the Colony, we see no reason for objecting to this general law. It is for Mr. Labouchere to consider whether it may be sanctioned, though going beyond the instructions conveyed in his Despatch.

7. It is no doubt meant that the Coolies should be entitled to their return passages at the end of their renewed industrial residence, but the wording of the Ordinance might give rise to some doubt on the subject; and since the question may not be raised till a distant period, it will be advisable to preclude all future dispute upon it by obtaining from the Governor or Court of Policy a specific assurance as to the real intention of the Ordinance.

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8. The Ordinance No. 23 also varies from Governor Wodehouse's original proposal, as it provides for raising a new loan of 50,000*l.* instead of making the bounties payable out of the old loan of 150,000*l.* authorized by No. 16 of 1855.

9. Whether this is a material alteration, and whether this Ordinance should be referred to the Lords of the Treasury, in order to enable their Lordships to satisfy themselves that it does not interfere with the security of the guaranteed loan, are matters for the consideration of Mr. Labouchere.

We, have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) C. ALEXANDER WOOD.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Encl. 2 in No. 69.

Enclosure 2 in No. 69.

SIR, Downing Street, October 27, 1856.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, an Ordinance, No. 23 of 1856, intituled "An Ordinance for raising a Loan for payment of Bounty to Indian Immigrants," together with the Report of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners upon this Ordinance.

14th Oct. 1856.

Mr. Labouchere would be glad to be favoured with the Lords Commissioners' opinion, whether this Ordinance should be confirmed, at their earliest convenience.

I have, &c.

Sir C. E. Trevelyan.

(Signed) T. F. ELLIOT.

Encl. 3 in No. 69.

Enclosure 3 in No. 69.

SIR, Treasury Chambers, November 15, 1856.

WITH reference to Mr. Elliot's letter of 27th ultimo, transmitting for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a British Guiana Ordinance, No. 23 of 1856, entitled "An Ordinance for raising a Loan for payment of Bounty to Indian Immigrants," I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, that they see no reason for interfering with the proceedings of the Governor and Court of Policy of British Guiana, for raising this further loan of 50,000*l.* for the purpose of retaining Indian labourers in the Colony; but they would recommend that the Governor's attention should be called to the danger likely to arise to the interests of the Colony, by imposing a heavy burthen upon the general Revenue for the purpose of meeting a temporary exigency.

The Ordinance No. 23 is herewith returned.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 70.

No. 70.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 188.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 3, 1856.

* Page 99.

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 165, of the 22d of October, I transmit to you the copy of a Letter from the India Board, enclosing the copy of a Despatch which the Court of Directors of the East India Company have addressed to the Government of India, upon the subject of the introduction into British Guiana of Coolie emigrants from India by private parties.

Enclosure. 22nd Nov. 1856.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 70.

Enclosure in No. 70.

SIR, India Board, November 22, 1856.

WITH reference to your letter of the 27th ultimo, enclosing a copy of a report from the Emigration Commissioners, on the regulations which seem to them necessary for carrying into effect the proposed scheme of emigration from Bombay to British Guiana by

private parties; I am directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to transmit to you a copy of a Despatch which has been addressed by the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Government of India upon the subject.

I am, &c.

T. F. Elliot, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) Wm. Leach.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure.

Copy of a Despatch from the Court of Directors to the Governor-General of India in Council.

Letter from India Board, dated 25th April 1856, and Enclosures.

Letter from Court in reply, dated 1st May 1856.

Letter from Board, dated 14th Aug. 1856, and Enclosures.

Letter from Court in reply, dated 28th August 1856.

Letter from Board, dated 3rd Nov. 1856, and Enclosures.

We forward to you a number in the packet, the correspondence noted in the margin relating to a proposal for the introduction of Coolie labourers from Bombay into British Guiana by private individuals.

You wil observe that the scheme originally proposed by the Secretary of State for the colonies, in behalf of the colony of British Guiana, has been considerably modified in consequence of the opinion expressed in our letter to the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India of the 1st May 1856; and there is no doubt that by the modifications which the plan has undergone the most serious objections have been removed.

In compliance with the wishes of the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, we now refer the subject to you for consideration and report, in communication with the Government of Bombay. You will not fail carefully to scrutinize the rules under which it is suggested by the Emigration Commissioners that the interests of the emigrants under the proposed scheme shall be protected; and we shall be prepared to positively refuse our countenance to the proposed arrangements, unless in your opinion the provisions referred to provide in the fullest manner for that indispensable object.

No. 71.

No. 71.

Copy of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., to Governor Wodehouse.

Sir, Downing Street, December 8, 1856.

I transmit for your information the copy of a Report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with the copy of a letter from Mr. Caird, enclosing an amended scale of stores and medicines for Coolie ships, and some printed regulations for the guidance of masters of ships carrying Coolies.

Enclosure. 26th Nov. 1856.

I have instructed the Commissioners to authorize the emigration agents in India to give effect to Mr. Caird's suggestion, that a gratuity of one rupee should be paid to masters of Coolie ships for every immigrant landed alive, provided the mortality on the voyage does not exceed two per cent.; and a further bonus of 10*l.*, in the case of no death occurring.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 71.

Encl. in No. 71.

Sir, Emigration Office, November 26, 1856.

We have the honour to inclose for the consideration of Mr. Secretary Labouchere the copy of a letter from Mr. Caird, with an amended scale of stores and medicines for Coolie ships, and some printed regulations for the guidance of masters of ships carrying Coolies. As the copies of the scales of dietary and medicines and of the regulations are the only copies which we possess, we would request that they may be returned.

6th October.

2. It will be seen that the alteration in the scale of provisions and medicines is the result of an investigation of a medical committee, appointed by the Indian Government to consider the subject.

3. We would beg to draw attention to the last paragraph of Mr. Caird's letter, in which he suggests that a gratuity of one rupee should be paid to masters of Coolie ships for every immigrant landed alive, provided the mortality on the voyage does not exceed 2 per cent.; and a further bonus of 10*l.*, in the case of no deaths occurring at all. This proposal

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appears to us very judicious, and we would request permission, unless it should be first thought necessary to consult the colonial authorities, to authorize the emigration agents in India to give it effect.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta,
October 6, 1856.

SIR,

WITH reference to the third paragraph of my letter of the 8th August last, I now beg leave to enclose a revised scale of provisions, as well as a new list of medicines, which have been approved of by the authorities here, for the use of West India emigrant ships, and I have therefore to request the favour of your substituting them in lieu of those now annexed to the Board's charter-parties.

2. By the revised provision scale two meals a day have been arranged for, and I beg to add that the cost of providing the extra things will be about 80*l.* altogether (for 350 adults), in excess of the old scale. This sum, together with 7*l.* for additional medicines, I have promised to make good to the owners of the ships chartered in England. The most expensive article in the present scale is biscuits, which alone comes to 1,800 rupees. The other articles have been very much reduced in quantity.

3. I also take this opportunity of forwarding a copy of printed regulations which I have drawn up for the guidance of commanders of emigrant ships. Two copies pasted on boards will be furnished to each vessel, to be hung up in some conspicuous part of the ship; and I am inclined to think that if commanders act up to the instructions there will be much less sickness than would now appear to prevail in almost all Coolie ships leaving this port.

4. And in order to hold out some inducement to commanders to pay more attention to the duty of looking after the people entrusted to their care, I would beg most strongly to recommend that a gratuity of one rupee be paid for each person landed alive, provided the mortality does not exceed 2 per cent. (infants, of course, under one year not to be included); and if a vessel should reach her destination on board of which there had been no deaths, that the commander should receive a further sum of 10*l.*

I have, &c.

S. Walcott, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) T. CAIRD,
Emigration Agent.

No. 72.

No. 72.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 191.)

SIR,

Downing Street, December 9, 1856.

I TRANSMIT to you the copy of a Report from the Colonial Emigration Commissioners, enclosing copies of two letters from Mr. Thomson the emigration agent at Madras, in which he reports unfavourably of the prospect of emigration to the West Indies.

Enclosure 1.

I have signified to the Commissioners my approval of the course which they have adopted in reference to these letters, and I have sanctioned the establishment of the proposed emigration depôt at Madras.

Enclosure 2.

I forward for your information the Copy of a Despatch which I have addressed to the Governor of Mauritius, relative to the proceedings of the Mauritius planter to which Mr. Thomson alludes.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 72. BRITISH GUIANA.

Sub-Enclosures 1 and 2.

SIR, Emigration Office, November 25, 1856.

WE enclose copies of two letters which we have received from Mr. Thomson, acting for the present as emigration agent at Madras, which we regret to say are far from bearing out the favourable anticipations which he expressed of the prospects of emigration to the West Indies.

2. Besides the ships engaged in England, Mr. Thomson, it will be remembered, had chartered the "Blue Jacket" to carry 530 emigrants from Madras to the West Indies, and had agreed with certain recruiters for a supply of 2,500 Coolies. It will be seen, however by his letter of the 27th September, that his agents had failed him, and that the "Blue Jacket" was on demurrage. We infer that the forfeiture of the recruiters' caution money would have covered the loss incurred up to that time. How long the ship was afterwards detained, or whether she had left Madras on the 15th of October, does not appear.

3. To this difficulty the size of the ship must have contributed, and so far it corroborates the opinion which Mr. Caird's experience led him to express against the employment of large vessels, which had been so strongly pressed on the Secretary of State by the Legislature of British Guiana. But Mr. Thomson ascribes it also to the competition of a Mauritius planter, who was engaged in decrying the West Indian emigration; to that of the French, who pay to their emigrants from Pondicherry a bounty of 15 rupees a head; and to the disinclination of the people to expatriate themselves for 10 years.

4. The Mauritius planter has since been compelled to abandon his operations, but Mr. Thomson recommends that, to prevent such embarrassment in future, emigration to Mauritius should be prohibited during the season of West Indian emigration. To meet the competition of the French, he desires that he may be authorized to make advances to emigrants of five or seven rupees, repayable out of their wages, and to establish a depôt for their reception, so as to prevent their absconding after they have promised to emigrate. He further states that he has been compelled to tell the emigrants that they will be allowed to return to their country (meaning, we presume, at the public expense) after an industrial residence of five years.

5. Mr. Labouchere is perhaps aware that the temporary prohibition of Mauritius emigration, which Mr. Thomson recommends, was enforced some time since in regard to Calcutta, but that it excited great dissatisfaction in Mauritius, and it has been ultimately settled that Mr Caird shall, without following any inflexible rule, confine the Mauritius emigration, as far as possible, to the months during which emigration to the West Indies is stopped, *i.e.*, from March to August inclusive. We have recommended Mr. Thomson to follow the same course; but it seems to us desirable that so much of Mr. Thomson's letter as concerns the proceedings of this Mauritius planter should be communicated to the Governor of Mauritius, with an intimation that it is impossible for the Secretary of State to allow a competition so mischievous to all British interests concerned, that he trusts to the Mauritius Government for taking the necessary steps to put an end to it; and that if this is found impracticable, it will be necessary to prohibit absolutely all emigration to Mauritius during the half year allotted to the West Indies, or to take some other effectual measure for securing the emigration agent against embarrassment in the discharge of his functions. He may observe that Mr. Thomson's experience on this head already illustrates the difficulty which we have frequently pointed out of carrying on simultaneously in the same country a private and a public collection of emigrants.

6. The establishment of a depôt in Madras (as in Calcutta) we do not doubt to be necessary. We need hardly add, however, that no one can be forcibly detained there if he wishes to leave it. For this, therefore, we would request the sanction of the Secretary of State.

7. The proposals of giving a bonus to emigrants, and shortening their term of industrial residence, are more important.

8. It is evident that the British West Indies must compete in the labour market of the Madras Presidency with France and Mauritius, and with the latter at a great disadvantage. The voyage to Mauritius is short, the nature of the emigration is well known and popular, the colony is full of the emigrant's countrymen, his return to his own country (which, however, is not furnished at the public expense) is cheap, opportunities are constant, and he can avail himself of them after an industrial residence of five years. Unless, therefore, some special inducements are offered, it must be difficult to procure a continuous supply of immigrants for the West Indies while Mauritius remains ready to receive all who desire to go thither. If a bonus alone would be effectual for this purpose (and it is said to be so at Pondicherry), it would evidently be for the interest of the colonies to give a very large one rather than relinquish five years of industrial residence, which, if commuted, will cost them fifty dollars. On this ground, and because we are aware of the importance attached to it by the colonists, we have expressed our most decided disapproval of the step which Mr. Thomson has taken in dispensing with five years of industrial residence, informing him that it would have been better to have allowed the "Blue Jacket" to leave with a short complement, or to have paid a large bounty, than to have made this concession, which may also produce confusion and embarrassment in British Guiana. But as Governor Wodehouse

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has suggested, and Mr. Labouchere has sanctioned, the payment of a moderate bonus to emigrants from Calcutta, we have thought ourselves justified in conveying a similar authority to Mr. Thomson. We trust that Mr. Labouchere will approve our having so done.

9. We would suggest that copies of Mr. Thomson's letters should be communicated to the Governors of British Guiana and Trinidad, and that they should be informed of the course which Mr. Labouchere may decide to adopt in regard to them.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

West India Emigration Office, Madras,
September 27, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice the very serious impediment that is now thrown in the way of collecting emigrants for the West Indies, and which I fear, if it is allowed to continue, will cause a great drawback to emigration to those Colonies.

A Mauritius planter has arrived here with four men to recruit emigrants, and, as I have closed the Mauritius emigration for this season, as the year's contingent has been supplied, I have been using every effort to collect for the West Indies. I now find that this Mauritius planter is doing all in his power, through parties here, to induce the Coolies I have collected for the West Indies to go to Mauritius. The two emigrations can never be carried on with any degree of success together, and I now propose that an order of Government should be issued to stop the Mauritius emigration during the season of the West India emigration, which is nothing but fair for both Colonies. Another request I have to make, which is, that I should be allowed to make some advance to each emigrant, to be deducted out of his earnings in the Colony, which is done in Pondicherry, where they get more emigrants for the Antilles than we can for our colonies, on this account. I have heard, from good authority, that the emigrants get 15 rupees as an advance at Pondicherry, which is a great inducement for them to emigrate, and to this is attributed the very large number that go from Pondicherry yearly; and also that they should get a free passage back to their country after an industrial residence of five years, and not 10, as at present stipulated. I may here inform you that I have been compelled to tell the emigrants that they will be allowed to return to their country after an industrial residence of five years. By this you will find that a much larger number of men will emigrate, when they see their fellow-countrymen return with such good accounts, as I find many give, of their treatment, and of the colonies. Another very great evil I have to contend with is, that there is not a proper depôt here that I can confine the emigrants in after they are registered; the consequence is that many, after being registered, take batta from the maistries who collect them, and, when the ship is ready, run away and are no more heard of. This involves a very serious loss to the emigration, which would be counteracted if there was a proper depôt to keep the people in, and where they would be properly looked after, and where they could be shipped from with greater facility than at present. I am sorry to inform you that, contrary to my expectations, I have not got the ship "Blue Jacket" away. I entered into an agreement with four people who have been in the habit of providing me with emigrants, and took security to the amount of 2,000 rupees from them, in the hopes that they would exert themselves according to their agreement with me. I was to have 550 men ready by the 7th of this month; 400 by the 1st of October; and 100 each from them in each month of the season, besides the proper per-centage of females. I relied entirely on the faith of this agreement, and am now sorry to say that the "Blue Jacket" is now under demurrage, which I shall pay out of the money deposited as security for the due fulfilment of the agreement. At the same time, I do not apprehend there will be such great difficulty as at present collecting Coolies in another month, when the people get properly to work, and no more interlopers come upon me from Mauritius. You may depend on my using every effort to carry out the wishes of the Commissioners in every respect; and before the end of next month I hope I shall be in such a position, with respect to the emigration, that will give you every satisfaction.

I have, &c.

S. Walcott, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) W. THOMSON,
Acting West India Emigration Agent.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

To S. WALCOTT, Esq., Secretary to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, London.

West India Emigration Office, Madras,
October 15, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that although I have used every exertion, emigration to the West Indies is progressing very slowly; and, in fact, unless a change takes place shortly, I fear I shall have to send some of the vessels to Calcutta. At present I labour under a very great drawback, which is, a planter from Mauritius, whom I alluded

to in my last, has come here to recruit Coolies under an Ordinance, 12 of 1855, from the Mauritius Government; and as his people have used every means to entice the Coolies away that have come to me for the West Indies, I have been compelled to take legal advice on the subject, and the law officers here inform me that according to the above-named Ordinance I am perfectly justified to stop him collecting Coolies for the Mauritius, which I have accordingly done. If he had acted fair, and not taken my people which have been sent in from the districts, I should not have taken notice of him; but when he boasts that he will take all my people in spite of all I can do, and as a preference is given by the natives of India to go to Mauritius rather than go so far as the West Indies, and as his people are spreading such reports about the West Indies, saying that if they go there their arms and legs will be cut off, and that they will never see their country again, it is so far off where they are going, that all this deters the poor ignorant people of India from emigrating; and at Pondicherry 15 rupees are given as an advance to each emigrant before he embarks, which is a great inducement to them to emigrate, and as there has been a deal of rain all over the country, and cultivation rapidly progressing. Under all these circumstances, combined emigration for the West Indies at present progresses very slowly. I would recommend, if you want to get any number of emigrants for the West Indies, to offer an advance of five or seven rupees, to be deducted from their hire on arrival at the colony; but this must be done with great caution, and security taken that the people do not run away.

Another essential point that wants remedying at once is, that a stop be put to the Mauritius emigration during the months the West India emigration is open; this is nothing but fair for all parties. In fact, the two emigrations can never work together from this port; and even if this was at once put in force, the Mauritius would have a much greater advantage over the West Indies, for from September to the end of the year cultivation of all sorts rapidly progresses in all the districts where the Coolies come from; and from October to the end of December is the bad weather on this coast, and ships do not like to be in these roadsteads if it can be avoided.

I beg you will bring what I have proposed, with reference to the working of the two emigrations at separate seasons of the year, to the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that orders may be issued to this Government to stop emigration to Mauritius during the West India emigration season, and that these orders may be sent out with as little delay as possible; and also that the time of servitude be reduced from ten to five years, as there are great objections to such a long residence from their homes.

Every encouragement ought to be given for the Coolies to go to and fro; such is the case at Mauritius. Bounties given for men bringing their families and returning with men, which in a very great measure makes Mauritius so very popular among the natives of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. THOMSON,
Acting West India Emigration Agent.

Enclosure 2 in No. 72. Encl. 2 in No. 72.

SIR, Downing Street, December 9, 1856.

I TRANSMIT to you extracts from letters which have been addressed to the Colonial Emigration Commissioners by Mr. Thomson, the acting emigration agent at Madras, in which he complains of the proceedings of a Mauritius planter in endeavouring to induce the emigrants whom Mr. Thomson had collected for the West Indies to go to Mauritius.

It is impossible for me to allow a competition so mischievous to all British interests concerned, and I trust to the Mauritius Government for taking the necessary steps for putting an end to it. If this be found impracticable, it will be necessary to prohibit absolutely all emigration to Mauritius during the half year allotted to the West Indies, *i.e.*, from September to March inclusively; or to take some other effectual measure for securing the emigration agent against embarrassment in the discharge of his functions.

Governor Higginson, Mauritius.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 73. No. 73.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 193.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 11, 1856.

I REFERRED to the Emigration Commissioners your Despatch No. 144, of the 8th November, respecting the funds available for paying for the Coolies who may be expected in the colony during the present season; and I transmit for your information a copy of their reply. Enclosure. 6th Dec. 1856.

Under all the circumstances of the case, I have decided not to counter-order the number of Coolies whom the agents had been instructed to send to British

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Guiana; but I have acted entirely in reliance on your judgment, and I must look to you to ensure the production of the necessary funds, when required to meet the liabilities incurred for this service.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 73.

Enclosure in No. 73.

SIR, Emigration Office, December 6, 1856.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 5th instant, enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, respecting the funds available for Coolie immigration.

2. Mr. Wodehouse states that he has been unable to raise the loan by which it was intended to meet the expenses of introducing the 4,300 Coolies ordered for this season. That he has therefore informed the planters that they will probably be obliged to pay at once (and not by instalments) the whole amount required from them by law in respect of Coolies allotted to them, and he adds, that "from the tenor of the answers he has already "received, he has no doubt of his being able to meet the liabilities of the Colony to the "owners of the vessels chartered, as they may become due for all the Coolies that are "likely to be sent to [British Guiana] in the season."

3. As we do not exactly know the amount of certainty which is involved in these words, we may as well state the amount of liability which has been incurred on behalf of the Colony; the amount of money in our hands; and the possible increase of liabilities which may take place.

4. We have taken up in England the return Coolie ship the "Empress Eugenie," of which the freight will probably amount to about 2,600*l.*, and are about to take up another calculated to carry 250 Coolies, and costing therefore about 2,800*l.*, under directions from the Colony, transmitted in your letter of the 26th ultimo. It is of importance, and indeed a matter of good faith towards the Coolies, that the ship should be duly despatched. We have also taken up five Coolie ships, of which the names are in the margin. They may possibly hold about 1,700 adults, and their cost including Indian expenses will in that case be about 22,000*l.*

"Bucephalus."
"Wellesley."
"Stamboul."
"Malacca."
"Merchantman."

5. The "Blue Jacket," intended to carry 531 adults, and costing probably about 7,000*l.*, has been taken up at Madras.

6. The Indian expenses of last year will probably be about 2,500*l.*

7. Our total liabilities, therefore, may be represented as follows,—

	£
Indian expenditure, 1855–6	2,500
Return passages, 2 ships	5,400
Freights of 2,231 Coolies	24,500
Indian expenses, 1856–7	4,500
Total	36,900

Besides this we have made a conditional engagement with the "Empress Eugenie," to take effect or not, at the option of the emigration agent at Madras, and the agents at both the Indian ports hold authority, which, however, the difficulty of finding emigrants will probably render it impossible for them to exercise, to send as many more Coolies as they can, not exceeding 4,300.

8. But it is to be observed that the freights of Coolie ships are under the charter-parties payable "by the *Governor* of *British Guiana* either by bills drawn upon the "Commissioners at ninety days' sight, or, at the option of the Governor, in such amount of "cash as shall be equivalent to such bills at the then current rate of exchange upon "London."

9. The only liabilities, therefore, which fall *directly* on this Board are those of—

	£
Return Coolie ships	5,400
Indian Expenses, 1855–6	2,500
Do. do. 1856–7	4,500
Total	12,400

While the assets in our hands are

	£
Cash, about	800
Exchequer bills	20,300
Total	21,100

leaving about 8,700*l.* available for freights in aid of the money which may be obtained from employers in the Colony.

10. The first ship of the season for British Guiana did not leave India till the 4th October, and even in case the Governor were to pay the freight by bills, it could not well fall due in this country till next May.

11. It is for the consideration of the Secretary of State whether, under all these circumstances, it is necessary to take any steps to prevent the accruing of any liabilities beyond those which are already incurred. If, as we should anticipate, Mr. Labouchere is of opinion that the return Coolie ship (for which we shall receive tenders on Thursday next) should at all events be taken up, the only step which can be taken is to instruct Messrs. Caird and Thomson, by the Marseilles mail of the 9th instant, not to take up any ships for British Guiana beyond those engaged in England; and if they should already have taken up any such ship, to endeavour to change their destination from British Guiana to Trinidad. These instructions, which would arrive in India towards the middle of January, might possibly prevent the re-engagement of the "Empress Eugenie" at Madras, and the chartering of a ship at Calcutta for British Guiana. Looking, however, to the recent accounts from both the Indian ports, it is most probable that the directions would be superfluous.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 74.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 194.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 16, 1856.

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 191, of the 9th inst., I transmit to you the copy of a Report from the Emigration Commissioners, with the copy of a letter from the acting emigration agent at Madras, communicating further information in regard to the prospects of Coolie emigration to British Guiana. 13th Dec. 1856. Enclosure.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 74.

SIR, Emigration Office, December 13, 1856.

WE enclose the copy of a letter from Mr. Thomson, acting emigration agent at Madras, from which it appears that a considerable amount of demurrage will be payable on the ship "Blue Jacket," but on the other hand that the opposition of the Mauritius collectors has been stopped, that the emigrants are coming in rather more freely, and that he hopes that the "Blue Jacket" will leave for British Guiana in the beginning of November, and the "Stamboul" for the same colony about a fortnight after. We would suggest that this information should be communicated to the Governor of British Guiana. 29th October. Sub-Enclosure.

2. It will be observed that Mr. Franklin, the emigration agent, for whom Mr. Thomson is acting, is expected daily to return to Madras.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sub-Enclosure.

West India Emigration Agency Office,
SIR, Madras, October 29, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated Park Street, Westminster, 23d September 1856.

2. You will have perceived from my last letter that the contractors with whom I had contracted have failed in their agreement and forfeited their deposit money, rupees 2,000. An order has come from the Governor-General of India putting a stop to emigration to the colony of Mauritius until proper shelter is provided for the immigrants on their arrival. This is a most fortunate thing for me, as I am now in treaty with the party I wrote to you about collecting for Mauritius and taking my people. He not only now is willing to give me his people that he has collected, but offers his men to me to collect for the West Indies.

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3. Every precaution is taken by me to select really efficient and good labourers, and as I stated before I shall use every exertion to comply with the wishes of the Commissioners.

4. The first week in September was the time the "Blue Jacket" ought to have sailed, and I expected to get the "Stamboul" away the first week in October, but in both of which I have failed, as neither of the vessels has yet left. But should even the demurrage amount to one pound a head, which seems a very large sum, the emigrants will then be sent to the West Indies much cheaper than ever they were sent before, the former averages being above 15*l.* a head.

5. With reference to the "Blue Jacket" I must here say a finer vessel for the trade could not be, and instead of her having two decks she has only one, and her ventilation is remarkably good; and taking into consideration her sailing qualities, no vessel can be better adapted for this service than she is.

6. Every precaution shall be taken with regard to the health, cleanliness, &c., of the emigrants. I shall be guided in future by your advice with reference to taking up ships for emigrants; but I can only assure the Commissioners that this vessel was taken up privately merely because she was so well adapted for this service, and at such a low figure, and as I was not aware you intended sending so many vessels from England for this service.

7. I shall not reply to your letter of the 29th July, as I have been waiting for Mr. Franklin's return who is now daily expected; and as I do not know his wishes on this subject, should this season's emigration be left to me to complete, I shall then state my views on the subject.

8. The "Blue Jacket" will leave this in a week or ten days, and I hope to get the "Stamboul" away about a fortnight after, as emigrants are now beginning to come in rather quicker.

I have, &c.

S. Walcott, Esq.,
Secretary to the Land and Emigration Commissioners, London.

(Signed) W. THOMSON,
Acting West India Emigration Agent.

No. 75.

No. 75.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 196.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 17, 1856.

* Page 200.

I HAVE received your Despatch No. 117,* of the 6th September, and I have to convey to you Her Majesty's allowance and confirmation of the Ordinances of the Legislature of British Guiana, entitled respectively, "An Ordinance to "amend the Ordinance No. 7, of 1854;" and "An Ordinance to regulate "the payments of contract duty to be made by the employers of immigrant "labourers from Madeira, the Azores, and the Cape de Verde or Canary "Islands."

No. 25 of 1856.

No. 26 of 1856.

† Page 203.

I have also received your Despatch No. 125,† of the 24th September, enclosing the copy of a protest signed by three un-official members of the Court of Policy against the Ordinance No. 25.

The signers of this protest consider the Ordinance objectionable on two points.

First:—As I understand them, they desire the definition of "industrial residence" to be so framed that certificates should no longer be granted, "with "regard solely to the time which the labourers may have passed in the colony, "whether in performance of their allotted tasks, or in idleness, sickness, or "vagrancy."

It is, however, evident to me that the Ordinance is so framed as to require not only residence but continued labour from the Indian immigrant; and if certificates are "at present" issued on mere proof of residence, without reference to its industrial character, it is either a practical abuse to be remedied by the Executive, or a necessary alleviation of the minute requirements of the present law.

In neither case can it be cured by more specific legislation, unless the Court of Policy consent to dispense with those minute requirements.

Next, the protesting members of the Court object to the 6th clause of the Ordinance, which requires a payment of six dollars for every half-year during which the Coolie shall be detained in the colony, after his right to a return passage has accrued.

This provision was made under the instructions of the Secretary of State after due consideration, and as no fresh argument of importance is adduced against its fairness, I am of opinion that it is not open to any reasonable objection.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 76. No. 76.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 219.)

Sir, Downing Street, February 14, 1857.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 8th ult., No. 5,* in which you request to be distinctly informed whether the Coolie emigrants sent to British Guiana by Mr. Thompson, the acting immigration agent at Madras, with promises of return passages after five years' residence in the colony, are to be told on their arrival that this promise, as being contrary to law, cannot be carried out, or whether, in consideration of their having left India on the faith of it, you are to endeavour to bring about a fulfilment of it.

* Page 220.

Mr. Thompson's proceedings were no doubt most ill-judged, and the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners have stated to me that they would certainly have recommended that the conduct of the emigration should have been removed to other hands, had they not been aware that before any such transfer could have been effected, Mr. Franklin (in whose absence Mr. Thompson was acting) would have returned to Madras. But Mr. Thompson, I must point out to you, was not less on this account the agent of the West Indian colonies; and acting in that capacity he induced 526 Indians to leave their country for British Guiana, on a pledge (without which he could not prevail on them to go) that they would be sent back to their country at the expiration of five years.

Under such circumstances there can be no room for doubt, as to the performance of the pledge made by the agent of the colony, as to the necessity for making such legal provision as may be requisite for that purpose.

I must therefore request that you will, with as little delay as possible, submit to the Court of Policy an Ordinance which will secure to these Coolies the advantage which has been promised to them; and as it is important to the interests of the emigration that difficulties such as those which you have suggested should not be needlessly anticipated by the Indian Government, I shall defer, until I hear from you again, to make any communication on the subject to the Court of Directors.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 77. No. 77.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right. Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 226.)

Sir, Downing Street, February 26, 1857.

I have received your Despatch No. 155, of the 9th of December, forwarding the regulations which have been framed by the Court of Policy for carrying into effect the scheme of private immigration.

I transmit for your information the copy of a report upon the subject from the Emigration Commissioners, together with a copy of a letter which I directed to be addressed to the India Board, from which you will learn my views upon the different suggestions of the Emigration Commissioners.

5th Feb. 1857. Enclosure 1.

25th Feb. 1857. Enclosure 2

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You will perceive that I agree in opinion with the Commissioners that the contemplated emigration should not be extended to Calcutta or Madras.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. 1 in No. 77.

Enclosure 1 in No. 77.

SIR, Emigration Office, February 5, 1857.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 19th ultimo, enclosing a copy of a Despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, and of the regulations under which it is proposed to allow private persons to bring emigrants from Bombay.

2. It will be remembered that after a proposal on that subject had been rejected by the Court of Directors the West India Committee expressed a wish that private persons might be allowed to furnish shipping to convey from Bombay Coolies collected and shipped by a Government officer, on terms of receiving a bounty of 30 dollars each on the Coolies thus imported. Mr. Labouchere directed us to suggest heads of such regulations as would be necessary to give effect to this plan, which was done in our report of 10th October 1856.

3. One part of these regulations was intended to secure the welfare of the Coolies, and was more especially for the consideration of the Indian authorities. Another part was intended to secure the colony against loss or confusion, and was for the consideration of the Colonial Government. The whole was forwarded to the Court of Directors with a request that if it were approved the Bombay Government should be requested to determine some points of detail there specified; and it was sent to the Governor of British Guiana in order that he might state what course the Colonial Government would propose to take with regard to that part of the subject which particularly concerned them.

4. Our report has been referred by the Court of Directors to the Governments of India and of Bombay, and has been considered in British Guiana by the Court of Policy, who have framed the regulations now submitted for the approval of the Secretary of State.

5. We begin with that part which concerns the machinery of the emigration and not the protection of the Coolie. Our own suggestions were made with reference to the existing law, under which the importers of Coolies would receive a bounty on the importation of immigrants, but would have to pay the cost of collecting the people and maintaining them in depôt. It has, however, been determined, on the one hand, that the planters must pay the full cost of introducing Coolies allotted to them from Government ships, and as a consequence (we understand) that the bounty promised by the Ordinance No. 7 of 1854 (section 5) must be withdrawn; and, on the other hand, the colony shall pay through this Board the cost not only of the return passages (to which the public has always been considered liable), but that of collecting the emigrants and maintaining them up to the period of their embarkation. This (though it involves a disadvantage to which we shall presently allude) reduces the transaction as between the colony and the importers to an extremely simple one, getting rid at once of all the difficulties respecting the cost of collecting which were contemplated in the latter part of our report of the 10th of October. But the disappointments which have recently occurred at Madras induce us, even at the risk of seeming superfluous, to repeat the warning contained in our previous report, that the colonists must be prepared for the occasional occurrence of one or both of two inconveniences, viz., that Coolies may be collected when the expected ships may not be forthcoming, or that ships may arrive at a time when the Coolies cannot be promptly (or at all) obtained. In one case the colony, in the other the importer, may be put to considerable expense unless proper precautions are taken to prevent it. This, however, is exclusively a matter for colonial arrangement.

6. The regulations for the protection of the emigrants are the same as those suggested in our report, with one important exception, which is rendered necessary by the withdrawal of bounty. Our report suggested that from the aggregate amount of bounty payable on any shipload of Coolies, there should be deducted 5*l.* for every Coolie who had died on the voyage, or was incapable of work when landed. The bounty being withdrawn, these provisions fall with it, and the importer is left without this inducement to treat the people properly. This is the disadvantage to which we have already alluded, and we attach much importance to it.

7. It is no doubt true that the Government may, if the conditions of the licence have not been performed, enforce payment of 2,000*l.* from the licencee or his sureties, and also (if the regulations stand in their present shape) allot the Coolies to persons other than the importer. But this, though it provides a punishment for proved and flagrant misconduct, does not supply the same inducement to general care in those matters which elude official inquiry, which is secured by a forfeiture on those who die on the voyage or are landed sick.

8. On the other side, the colonists are not satisfied with the regulations as they stand. They point out that no precaution can secure them against misconduct on the part of the ship's officers; and they urge, therefore, that the penalty for misconduct should be *a sum*

of money, which they could recover from the owner or captain of the ship, and not a deprivation of their labour, for which they could exact no reparation.

9. This injustice, though abstractedly possible, would hardly occur in practice, since the Governor would not deprive the importer of his Coolies, unless it appeared that he was himself to blame, by contracting with shipowners of indifferent character, or in some other way sacrificing the security of the Coolie to a supposed economy. But, considering that the licencee's bond is for 2,000*l.*, we see no reason why the planter should not be relieved from the liability to lose his immigrants.

10. But for the reasons above mentioned, we think on the other side that, following the spirit of our original suggestions, whenever the deaths on the voyage exceed three per cent., a penalty should be exacted of 5*l.* for every immigrant who should have died on the voyage, or who should, in the opinion of the immigration agent, be incapable of work when landed in the colony.

11. If the Colonial Government were prepared to incur some additional expense, a still better method would be to give a gratuity to the master and surgeon of one dollar a head on every emigrant landed alive, subject, in each case, to a deduction of 5*l.* for every such sick or deceased person, as above mentioned. The result would be to forfeit the whole gratuity when the mortality exceeded five per cent.

12. Some provision would be necessary in either case to prevent disputes respecting the state of health in which Coolies who die on the voyage were embarked; but this may be considered hereafter.

13. These proposed modifications should of course be communicated to the Indian Government, in order that they may be considered in connection with the regulations submitted in our Report of the 10th of October.* * Page 99.

14. Mr. Labouchere's opinion might also be communicated to the Governor of British Guiana, though we do not perceive that anything could be done in the colony till the decision of the Indian Government is obtained.

15. Considering how uncertain it is whether unexpected difficulties may not arise in carrying on this emigration, and the doubts which the Court of Directors evidently entertain respecting its propriety, we cannot recommend that it should be extended to Calcutta or Madras, to the injury, if not total destruction, of the system already established, till experience has shown that it can be carried on properly.

We have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

Enclosure 2 in No. 77.

SIR, Downing Street, February 25, 1857.

WITH reference to the correspondence which has passed respecting the proposed introduction into British Guiana, by private persons, of emigrants from Bombay, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from the Governor of that colony, forwarding the rules which have been drawn up by the Court of Policy for carrying the plan into effect.

No. 155, Dec. 9th 1856. Page 217.

I am also to enclose the copy of a Report from the Emigration Commissioners, and, in requesting that the Commissioners for the Affairs of India will move the Court of Directors to forward these papers to the Government of India, I am to observe that Mr. Labouchere does not see any necessity for imposing a penalty on the importers, on account of death or sickness arising on the passage, as he believes that the direct interest of those persons will be sufficiently engaged to secure the immigrants from neglect; but that he approves of the suggestion of the Emigration Commissioners for allowing a gratuity to the master and surgeon of the ship, at the rate of one dollar for each immigrant landed alive and in good health, subject to a deduction of 5*l.* for each immigrant dying on the passage, or landed in a state unfit for work, through sickness. I am to add that Mr. Labouchere concurs with the Commissioners in opinion that this private immigration should not be extended to Calcutta and Madras.

5th Feb. 1857. Page 116.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. MERIVALE.

Sir George Clerk,
&c. &c.

No. 78.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 227.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 3, 1857.

I FIND it necessary to address you on two or three points, on which the arrangements at present in force in the West Indies, with regard to Coolie emi-

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gration, are considered defective by the Indian Government and the Court of Directors, and which I hope that the Legislature of British Guiana will find no difficulty in modifying in accordance with the desire of the Court.

In the first place, the Indian Government are anxious to diminish the risk that a Coolie wishing to return to his country at the expiration of his industrial residence, may be prevented from doing so by some engagement in which he may have involved himself. They suggest therefore that every Coolie who has applied for a back passage should receive at least three months' notice of the time at which he is actually to receive it. It is supposed that he will then be enabled to put an end to any engagement which he may have contracted.

I should myself anticipate that the Coolie would secure himself against the supposed contingency, by abstaining from any long engagement while he is expecting the offer of a back passage. But I should wish you to give effect in this respect, as exactly as the nature of the case admits, to the wishes of the Indian Government; unless any other method occurs to you by which their object may be more easily and certainly attained.

The Indian Government also draws attention to the suggestion already communicated to you, that provision should be made for transmitting the effects of deceased Coolies to their relatives in India. I have requested to be informed in what mode, and to what officer, it is desired that this transmission should take place, and with what information it should be accompanied. But in the meantime I should be glad to learn what means exist in the Colony for collecting these effects, and whether any legislation is necessary for securing such collection, and for enabling the Governor to send the property to the persons entitled in India. If any law is necessary for this purpose it ought to be passed. The Ordinance No. 25 of 1856 does not appear to contain the necessary provisions.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 79.

No. 79.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 233.)

Sir, Downing Street, March 27, 1857.

I transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with copy of a letter from Mr. Franklin, the emigration agent at Madras, from which I regret to find that Mr. Thomson, the late acting agent, has failed to send the required number of Coolies to British Guiana.

Enclosure. 14th March 1857.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 79.

Enclosure in No. 79.

Sir, Emigration Office, March 14, 1857.

We enclose, for Mr. Labouchere's information, the copy of a letter which we have received from Mr. Franklin, the emigration agent at Madras, reporting the unhappy result of the emigration from that port.

14th January.

It will be remembered that Mr. Thomson, who had been left by Mr. Franklin to act in his place at Madras for the season 1856–7, anticipated that he would be able to procure with ease a large number of Coolies. Not having had any experience of Mr. Thomson's efficiency, we did not think it safe to take up more than two ships in this country, the "Stamboul" for British Guiana, and the "Minerva" for Trinidad. Mr. Thomson, however, having contracted with a native collector for a large supply of emigrants, thought that he could safely charter a third very large ship, the "Blue Jacket," for British Guiana.

It appears by Mr. Franklin's letter that the anticipations of Mr. Thomson have been wholly disappointed. His collector has failed him (paying a forfeiture, however, of 2,000 rupees), and after keeping the "Blue Jacket" for a long time on demurrage he has been obliged to despatch her with 472½ instead of 526 adults on board. The "Stamboul" Mr. Franklin hoped to send off with a full complement, but after a still longer delay.

The "Minerva" was thrown up after various negotiations, and under circumstances under which the owners will prefer a claim for a large penalty. The "Empress Eugenie" will not be supplied with emigrants, but no penalty is payable by the colony on the non-employment of this ship.

We would suggest that copies of Mr. Franklin's letter should be communicated to the Governments of British Guiana and Trinidad, for their information, by the next mail.

* * * * * * * * * * *

It will be seen, however, that in Mr. Franklin's opinion the long period of residence required in the West Indies will naturally reduce the number of emigrants who are ready to go out, and it may be worth the consideration of the colonial authorities whether, in the face of the competition of Mauritius and the French colonies, they can maintain these terms of emigration either in Calcutta or Madras, without very materially reducing the number of labourers which they will be able to obtain.

We have, &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sub-Enclosure.

West India Emigration Agency Office,
Madras, January 14, 1857.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th November last, and to inform you that I took charge of this agency from Mr. Thomson on the 30th ultimo. I resumed my duties as agent to the Mauritius on the 5th of December, leaving Mr. Thomson to despatch the "Stamboul," then on demurrage, which he expected to do in ten days; but finding he was unable to do so I considered it advisable to receive over charge of the office.

2. It is with much regret that I have to report to you the failure of our attempts to fill the vessels sent for Coolie passengers. The "Blue Jacket" sailed on the 16th of November with 526 souls, equal to 472½ adult passengers, after having been on demurrage for 50 days. Rupees 5,000 were paid on this account, 2,000 being the caution money lodged by the contractors alluded to in the second paragraph of your letter under reply.

3. The "Stamboul" has now been on demurrage since the 25th of October last, and has been paid on this account 6,500 rupees up to the 29th ultimo, the day before my taking charge of the agency. I hope to despatch her with a full complement about the 25th.

4. The "Minerva" arrived here on the 25th September 1856, but it seems that Mr. Thomson, fearing that he should be unable to fill her, communicated, in concert with her agents, with Mr. Caird regarding her transfer to him. Nothing, however, was arranged, and meanwhile the vessel did not prepare; nor has she prepared during her lengthy stay here, for her commander having ordered a cargo of rice from Calcutta, the ship in which it was laden had to put back disabled, and it has not even yet arrived. Nevertheless the agents have claimed demurrage from Mr. Thomson, on the plea that during the negotiations with Mr. Caird they could not load the vessel and make those preparations which the charter-party required. This plea does not appear to me tenable; the negotiations were entered into for the convenience of both parties, and as the vessel has never been reported ready, as required by the third clause of the charter-party, her claim for demurrage must fall to the ground.

5. Finding from the inquiries I had made in various quarters that there was no chance of being able to fill her, or even procure a sufficient number of Coolies to warrant my employing her before the 1st of March, the period at which emigration to the West Indies ceases, I notified to the agents of the "Minerva," on the 8th instant, that the vessel was at their disposal.

6. The "Empress Eugenie," in like manner, will be thrown up on her arrival, which is daily expected.

7. It is painful for me to have to report the ill success which has attended the proceedings of the acting agent during the past season, for, to say nothing of the expense incurred, I know it will be a most serious disappointment to the colonies of Trinidad and Demerara; but to me the result is not surprising, and Sir Frederic Rogers will remember, in our conversation at the Emigration Commissioners' Office in the latter part of 1855,

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that I then strongly expressed my anticipations of failure. I had had some years experience in emigration affairs, and had made it my business to inquire whether the natives were willing or anxious to proceed to the West Indies, and found them invariably disinclined to it. If emigration were now open to the Mauritius I doubt if the "Stamboul" could have been filled, and even as it is you will perceive that much difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the required number for her.

8. I would suggest that in future no ships be engaged in England for West India emigration, but that the agent should be authorized to employ vessels on the spot, inviting tenders, as is the practice with respect to ships to the Mauritius. During the season, that is, from the 1st of September to the 1st of March, it is possible that perhaps two, or even three ships, containing from 300 to 350 adults, may be despatched, provided that emigration to the Mauritius is to be suspended during that time; but I will not bind myself to promise this number, as much depends on the work Government has in hand, and the nature of the seasons. If the natives can procure employment at home or near home, they cannot be expected to proceed to the other side of the world for a livelihood; and at the present moment I am losing men who originally registered themselves to proceed to the West Indies, but who are now taking Government service for Burmah.

9. If, moreover, efforts are still to be made to supply labour to the West Indian colonies from Madras, it would, I submit, be advisable that the agent should act entirely under instructions from the Colonial Commissioners in England, as I believe Mr. Caird does, for it will at once occur to you that the interests of the colony of the Mauritius may clash with those of British Guiana and Trinidad.

10. The Commissioners do not recognize a division of the office of emigration agent for the West Indies and for the Mauritius. This officer is agent for the colonies generally, and although bound to obey, to the best of his ability, such instructions regarding details as may be transmitted by the Government of the Mauritius, should be responsible to the Commissioners alone.

11. It is my duty also to point out to you that the mode of remuneration adopted at present is at variance with the second clause of the schedule appended to the Act of the Government of India, No. XXI. of 1844, which expressly prohibits its being dependent on the numbers shipped.

12. I have further to report that Mr. Holman, the surgeon appointed by the Commissioners to the "Minerva," is, in consequence of her services not being required, now unemployed. Dr. Ralton, a surgeon in the employment of the East India Company, had been appointed to the medical charge of the "Stamboul," otherwise I should have placed Mr. Holman in her. I have addressed Mr. Caird with the view to his employment in some West India emigrant ship from Calcutta; and if this application fail, he will probably proceed home at his own expense in some vessel round the Cape, for I do not see that I am authorized to pay his passage. From all I can learn, he appears to be well qualified for the situation he was selected to fill; and his position is most unfortunate, having been seven months on board the "Minerva" without earning anything, and now finding himself discharged here without funds.

13. Referring now to that part of your letter commenting on Mr. Thomson's promise that the emigrants should be sent back at the expiration of five years at Government expense, this gentleman informs me that they were only told that such a measure would be recommended.

14. On this subject I would, however, advise, if it be practicable, that the industrial residence should be shortened to five years, as at the Mauritius. Of course it is for the consideration of the Commissioners whether this can be effected without interfering with the arrangements with labourers from Calcutta, but its practical results would be to facilitate the supply here.

I have, &c.

S. Walcott, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN FRANKLIN,
West Indian Emigration Agent.

No. 80.

No. 80.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 235.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 27, 1857.

I HAVE received your Despatch No. 9, of the 21st of January, reporting the arrival of the "Wellesley" with emigrants from Calcutta.

I transmit for your information a copy of a Report from the Emigration Commissioners, to whom I forwarded your Despatch.

I concur in their suggestion as to the amount of deduction to be made from the gratuity to the officers of emigrant ships, in cases of death or sickness among the emigrants on their arrival; and I authorize you to carry it into effect.

BRITISH GUIANA.
17th March 1857.
Enclosure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 80.

Encl. in No. 80.

SIR, Emigration Office, March 17, 1857.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 24th ultimo, accompanied by a Despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, reporting the arrival in that colony of the ship "Wellesley," with 361 Coolie emigrants from Calcutta.

2. The mortality on the voyage was unusually large, amounting in the whole to 22; but the immigration agent is of opinion that this was not attributable to any defect in the ship, which he describes as a "splendid" vessel; nor apparently to any want of care on the part of the surgeon. One cause of it appears to have been the presence in the ship of some old and sickly people, who were objected to by the surgeon, but without whom their relations would not embark.

3. Governor Wodehouse reports that in this case he had paid the usual fee of one dollar per head on the emigrants landed alive, and he suggests, with reference to Mr. Caird's proposal that no gratuity should be paid to the master when the mortality exceeds two per cent., that such a rule would have a discouraging and prejudicial effect. In this view we are disposed to concur, more especially since the present case shows that the surgeon cannot always prevent the embarkation of persons whom he may justly consider unfit for the voyage, and is exposed, therefore, to a risk of mortality which he may foresee but cannot control. But as we consider it of great importance to create a personal interest in the master of the ship in the well-being of his emigrants, we think it would be better so far to modify Mr. Caird's proposal of the 6th of October last, as to leave the master and officers to receive the usual gratuity of a dollar a head on every person (of whatever age) embarked, subject to a deduction of 10 dollars for every such person who may have died on the voyage, or may, when landed, be so sick as to be incapable of work.

4. In our Report of the 5th ultimo we made a similar suggestion with respect to the proposed private emigration from Bombay, proposing, however, a larger deduction from the commander's gratuity in case of deaths.

We have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

No. 81.

No. 81.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 237.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 1, 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches,* of the 6th December and 24th January last, Nos. 153 and 13, the first reporting the proceedings which had taken place in the Combined Court, in consequence of your having found it impossible to raise the loan out of which it was intended to defray the expenses of the immigrants arriving in the year 1857; and enclosing, amongst other documents, eleven resolutions passed by that Court, prescribing the course which should be taken as regards the payment for Coolies introduced in 1856–7 and 1857–8; the second transmitting an Ordinance passed by the Court of Policy (No. 1 of 1857), for giving effect to the 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th of those resolutions, as to the mode of payment.

* Pages 204 and 221.

It appears to me that the measures which you proposed were judicious and well adapted to meet the difficulty in which the Colony was placed, when it was found impossible to raise the required funds by means of a loan. And I have much pleasure in conveying to you my approval of your proceedings. I consider also that the reasons which you have given for having made the Secretary of State's Despatches public, are sufficient.

BRITISH GUIANA. No. 1 of 1857.

I have therefore to convey to you Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance of the Ordinance passed by the Court of Policy, entitled "An Ordi-"nance to regulate Indian immigration during the seasons 1856–7 and 1857–8 "and the payment of bounty."

In reference thereto I will only observe, for your consideration, that it may probably be felt as a hardship, that if a Coolie dies during his period of service the master will lose all he has paid; and indeed that when back passages have been commuted, he may be called upon to liquidate his promissory note for 25 dollars after the death of the Coolie in whose behalf it was paid.

I will now advert to the remaining resolutions of the Combined Court, namely, the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th, in which certain questions in connexion with immigration are submitted for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

The 8th Resolution urges, that immigrants may be permitted to commute their right to back passages, upon such terms as may be considered reasonable.

The right to return passages was, as you are aware, one of the stipulations most strongly insisted upon by the Court of East India Directors, and by the Indian Government, when the emigration of Coolies to the West Indies was originally sanctioned. But finding that both yourself and the Colony continue to attach much importance to this concession, and feeling that the increased proportion of female to male immigrants now required has removed in some degree the objections which were entertained to such a concession by the Home Government—I propose to submit the question for the consideration of the Court of Directors, and of the Indian Government.

The 9th Resolution applies for an Imperial guarantee for a loan to cover the cost of back passages, or the commutation of them.

I can only in reply express my regret that Her Majesty's Government see no reason for departing from the decision already conveyed to you on former applications for a further guarantee for a loan for immigration services, even for the more limited object contemplated by the resolution.

* Page 115.

As regards the 10th Resolution, my Despatch of the 26th February, No. 226*, will have informed you that emigration from Calcutta and Madras to British Guiana by private parties cannot be sanctioned.

To the immigration of Chinese, as sought for by the 11th Resolution, I do not think there would be any insuperable objection, confined of course to an emigration from Hong Kong, but for the impracticability which all experience hitherto obtained has shown to exist of obtaining women to accompany the male emigrants.

Until some plan can be suggested by which this obstacle can be removed, it appears to me to be useless to entertain the question, or to sanction an expenditure which could only end in disappointment.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 82.

No. 82.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 244.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 10, 1857.

† Page 222.

I HAVE received your Despatch No. 26,† respecting the ships "Bucepha-"lus" and "Blue Jacket."

Enclosure.

I transmit for your information the copy of a report which I directed the Emigration Commissioners to furnish upon the subject of your Despatch and its enclosures.

I approve of your having issued to Mr. Hatchett, the surgeon of the "Bucephalus," only one dollar a head on the Coolies distributed, instead of four rupees on each landed alive.

I also approve of your having withheld the gratuities payable to the captain and other officers of the ship.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 82.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Encl. in No. 82.

Emigration Office, April 4, 1857.

SIR,

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 27th ultimo, enclosing the copy of a despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, reporting the arrival of the Coolie ships, the "Blue Jacket" and the "Bucephalus."

2. The former ship carried from Madras 526 souls, equal to 472½ adults, a greater number than have been shipped hitherto in any Coolie ship, or than would be embarked by us in any ship conveying English emigrants to Australia.

3. The "Bucephalus" carried from Calcutta 365 souls, equal to 350½ adults.

4. On the "Blue Jacket," only two men and two infants died during the voyage. On the "Bucephalus," 45 persons died, "with every prospect of further heavy loss out of the "28 sent to the Colonial Hospital."

Men	16
Women	15
Boys	3
Girls	2
Infants	9
	45

5. The Governor has received a special report from the immigratiom agent (Mr. Austin), and the health officer (Mr. Butts), who state their opinion, that the mortality in the "Bucephalus" arose from or was aggravated by the following causes:—

1. The want of a hospital in which the sick could be isolated, and a proper diet enforced on persons suffering from dysentery.
2. The bad quality of the biscuits, which were "unbaked and full of weevils, and "evidently unfit for human food."
3. The neglect of the surgeon to enforce cleanliness and sanitary discipline among the Indians.

6. Mr. Hatchett was a young man appointed by Mr. Caird, who is said to have been very kind and attentive to the emigrants, and to have given his whole time to them; but he took no pains to check the prevalence of filthy habits, which are described as making the atmosphere of the between-decks pestilential, and joined to the fact that the Coolies were not forced (except at one period of the voyage) to come on deck, are quite sufficient to account for any amount of disease.

7. We have no doubt that the authorities rightly ascribe to the last-mentioned cause the principal share in causing the mortality, and the Governor has accordingly only issued to Mr. Hatchett one dollar a head on the Coolies distributed, instead of four rupees on each of those landed alive. The gratuities of the captain and officers have been withheld, as it was considered that the captain should have exerted himself to supply the want of energy and authority in the surgeon, which led to such lamentable results.

8. The emigration officer makes certain suggestions respecting the placing of privies (a constant source of difficulty in all emigrant ships), the berthing of the Coolies, and the separation of hospitals, to which we shall direct Mr. Caird's notice. They will, of course, be considered by him in conjunction with the authorities of Calcutta, who have lately been paying much attention to the fitment of Coolie ships.

9. With regard to the bad biscuit, we have to state that the owners of the "Bucephalus" were not obliged, by their agreement with us, to issue any biscuit. But by recent regulations at Calcutta this was required, and we suppose that the biscuit was there shipped. We shall inquire how it happened that a bad article was put on board. All the articles required by the charter-party appear to have been good. We shall have to consider hereafter whether any forfeiture is to be exacted from the owners of the "Bucephalus" on this account.

10. The decision of the authorities as to the captain's gratuity is of course final; that respecting the surgeon's remuneration we may have to re-consider, if brought before us by Mr. Hatchett.

11. We are glad to perceive that return passages after five years' residence have been promised to the Coolies by the "Blue Jacket," who indeed refused to allow themselves to be allotted till Mr. Thomson's promise to them was ratified. It will be observed that though his promise of premature return passages is disapproved, his selections are said to have been good.

12. On the request of the Court of Policy that immigration to Mauritius may be stopped during the season for emigration to the West Indies, we shall report hereafter in connexion with the general arrangements of the season.

13. The contrast between the state of the "Blue Jacket" and the "Bucephalus" no doubt strengthens the arguments derivable from the success of the French emigration in favour of large ships. It must be remembered, however, that peculiar causes were at work in this case; that the Madras emigration is always far more healthy than that from Calcutta, in which, from intelligence which has reached us, we fear that a very great loss of life will be found to have occurred during this season; that the peculiar danger of large ships lies hardly so much in additional liability to average disaster, as in the magnitude which any disaster which does occur is likely to assume; and lastly, on the point of expense, alluded to by Mr. Austin, that the difficulty of filling the "Blue Jacket," arising in a great measure from her size, will have made that ship an exceedingly expensive one for the colony. This difficulty, it will be remembered, is the principal reason which Mr. Caird alleges for objecting to large ships.

We have, &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 83.

No. 83.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 251.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 1, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you the accompanying return which has been received from Mr. Caird, of the Coolies despatched from Calcutta to British Guiana, from October 1856 to March 1857.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

RETURN of Emigrant Ships despatched to the West India Colonies from the Month of October 1856 to March 1857.

Name of Ship.	Tonnage.		Contract Price.	Date on which placed at the Disposal of Agent at Calcutta.	Date of Departure.	Embarked.						
						Adults.		Children.				
	Old.	New.				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Infants.	Total Souls.	Statute Adults.
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Wellesley - -	-	1,100	—	3 Oct. 1856	4 Oct. 1856	254	84	13	11	20	382	350
Bucephalus -	-	950	—	31 Oct. —	1 Nov. —	252	84	20	9	15	380	350½
Sir Robt. Seppings	-	628	11 18 0	24 Nov. —	25 Nov. —	197	59	13	13	9	291	269
Roman Emperor -	-	793	13 0 0	30 Nov. —	1 Dec. —	207	68	14	12	12	313	288
Merchantman -	-	1,018	—	7 Feb. 1857	8 Feb. 1857	239	96	18	12	20	385	350
Burmah - -	-	718	11 0 0	28 Feb. —	1 Mar. —	230	58	10	10	18	326	298

No. 84.

No. 84.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 252.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 6, 1857.

I HAVE to acquaint you, that in compliance with the request made in your Despatch of the 20th February, No. 23,* I have instructed the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to make arrangements and give the necessary directions for sending 3,000 Coolie emigrants from India to British Guiana, in the course of the season of 1857–8.

* Page 222.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 85.

No. 85.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 254.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 12, 1857.

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 188,† of the 3rd of December last, I transmit to you the copy of a letter from the India Board, from which you will learn that the Government of Bombay have declined to sanction the proposed plan of emigration to the West Indies, to be conducted by private parties.

† Page 106.

9th April 1857.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 85.

BRITISH GUIANA.

SIR, India Board, April 20, 1857.

WITH reference to my letter to you of the 22nd of November last, I am directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, to forward to you for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Bombay Government to the Secretary of the Government of India, relating to the proposal for a system of emigration from Bombay to British Guiana in ships chartered by private individuals. Encl. 1 in No. 85.

I am, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) GEORGE CLARK.

Enclosure 2 in No. 85. Encl. 2 in No. 85.

Copy of a Letter from the Secretary of the Bombay Government to the Secretary of the Government of India.

SIR, Bombay, February 14, 1857.

WITH reference to the Honourable Court of Directors' Despatch to the Government of India, No. 114, dated 26th November 1856, a copy of which was forwarded by the Honourable Court on the same date to the Government of Bombay, with a request that the Right Honourable the Governor in Council would furnish the Government of India with such local information as he might be able to afford, and with his opinion on the scheme of encouraging emigration from Bombay to British Guiana, I am directed to report that there is an abundant demand for labour at present in the Bombay Presidency; that the local Government is of opinion that emigrants from this Presidency would not, in all probability, be induced to proceed to British Guiana, and that to encourage emigration thither, would not, under existing circumstances, be conducive to the good either of this country or of the persons who might be induced to emigrate, for whom there is ample and remunerative occupation at home.

2. The Right Honourable the Governor in Council is further of opinion, that should it be nevertheless determined to make an attempt to promote emigration from Bombay to British Guiana, such emigration should take place in strict conformity to the provisions of Act XXI. of 1844, and not according to any system of private agency.

Bombay Castle, February 14, 1857. (Signed) W. HART, Secretary to Government.

No. 86.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 255.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 12, 1857.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 34, of 23rd March, forwarding reports upon the mortality which occurred on board the ships the "Sir Robert Sepping," and "Roman Emperor."

I transmit for your information the copy of a report upon the subject from the Emigration Commissioners. 4 May 1857.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 86. Encl. in No. 86.

SIR, Emigration Office, May 4, 1857.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 23rd ultimo, enclosing the copy of a despatch from the Governor of British Guiana with a report from the immigration agent, and from a committee appointed to investigate the mortality which occurred on board the Coolie ships, the "Sir R. Sepping," and the "Roman Emperor."

2. The former of these ships embarked at Calcutta 291 souls. On the second day after the pilot left the ship there were 40 cases of diarrhœa and dysentery, which were said to have been raging at Calcutta at that time. According to the statement of the captain the people said that most of them had been attacked in depôt, but had been told that unless they suppressed the fact they would lose their opportunity of emigrating. They further stated that they had come to Calcutta with the wish to go to Mauritius, (to which emigration was closed,) and had not had the length of the voyage sufficiently explained to them. Towards the middle of the voyage they fell into a state of great despondency, and could scarcely be forced to take care of themselves, and the result was that no less than 61 deaths occurred during the voyage, while 57 cases were sent to the Colonial Hospital on arrival.

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3. The surgeon of the ship (Dr. Crawford) stated that the examination of the emigrants was practically made by the Doctor to the depôt, "by whom all objections in reference to the emigrants were overruled." We observe, however, that Dr. Crawford has signed a statement (dated 25th November 1856, and fowarded to us by Mr. Caird,) that he had that day "carefully and individually examined" the emigrants and found them healthy and fit for the voyage.

4. The "Roman Emperor" left Calcutta on the first of December with 313 souls on board; cholera appeared "a quarter of an hour after Mr. Caird's departure;" dysentery soon followed, and, increased probably by bad weather, became so prevalent as to make it difficult to maintain any sort of cleanliness or discipline. No such despondency prevailed among the people as in the "Sir R. Sepping," and they stated that the length of the voyage had been clearly explained to them; but like the emigrants in the other ship they said that they had suffered from dysentery before leaving Calcutta. The result was that no less than 88 persons died, and 63 were sent to hospital on their arrival.

5. The Board of Enquiry who were appointed by the Governor to investigate these cases, after examining the masters and surgeons of the two ships, expressed a decided opinion that no blame is to be imputed to the surgeons or officers, and that the provisions were good, but that the seeds of disease were brought out by the people, and that the arrangements were not in all respects calculated to meet the difficulties which occurred. With a view to mitigate them in future, they make the following suggestions:—(1.) That no emigrant should be allowed to embark while suffering from any dangerous contagious disease. (2.) That a hospital should be fitted in every ship, if possible, on the upper deck. (3.) That privies should be constructed exterior to the ship. (4.) That centre platforms (which are found to impede ventilation) should be abolished. And (5.) That the immigrants should be made clearly aware of the length of the voyage. They suggest a doubt whether the recent changes in the dietary (made after much consideration in India) are not unacceptable to the Coolie, and they urge the employment of large ships like the "Blue Jacket," which they say ought to have been allowed to carry a much larger number of passengers.

(6.) The immigration agent transmits a letter from Captain Parish, the master of the ship Wellesley, pointing out the advantages which would accrue if two or three experienced sirdars were sent down the river with each Coolie ship (returning with the pilot) to assist the master and surgeon to make a good start, a matter undoubtedly of the first importance in emigration.

7. We need hardly say that we deeply regret the lamentable loss of life which has occurred in these ships. We have little doubt that it arose, as the authorities in British Guiana suppose, from the fact that choleraic disease existed among the people when they embarked; nor can we hope that at Calcutta any precaution will furnish a security against such occurrences. At the same time, events of this kind show that no precautions can be neglected with impunity.

8. With regard to the suggestions of the Board, the necessity of a more vigilant medical examination of the Coolies, at a time when cholera is abroad, should, we think, be strongly impressed upon the surgeon of the depôt; and, of course, care should be taken that no Indians embark without a clear knowledge of the length of the voyage they are undertaking. We do not see sufficient reason for doubting that substantial means are employed for this latter purpose, though in some cases persons may have mistaken, or in the hardships of the voyage, may have forgotten, what was told them. We consider that it is clearly necessary to arrange for the separation of a hospital, and that it will probably be better to discontinue the erection of platforms between decks. The arrangement of privies, and the modification of diet, we should be inclined to leave to the officers in India.

9. With regard to the employment of large ships, the authorities of British Guiana will already have learnt that the predictions of Mr. Caird respecting the difficulty of filling them, have been fully borne out by the result at Madras, where the nominal amount of freight will have been lamentably increased by the demurrage and forfeiture consequent on the emigration agent's failure to find a complement of emigrants.

10. Captain Parish's proposal for the employment of sirdars from the depôt to see the ships out of the river, seems to us very sensible, and likely to be useful.

11. Unless we receive contrary instructions, we should propose to forward to Mr. Caird by the mail of the 20th instant, copies of the reports and letters transmitted by Mr. Wodehouse, and to express to him the opinions which we have above stated respecting the changes of arrangement proposed by the Committee of Inquiry at British Guiana, and the captain of the Wellesley.

We have, &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 87.

No. 87.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 256.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 12, 1857.

WITH reference to your Despatch No. 13,* of the 24th of January, I transmit for your information the copy of a letter from the India Board, and of its enclosure, from which you will learn that the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, and the Court of Directors of the East India Company, entertain some objections to the proposal of allowing Coolies to commute their right to return passages.

* Page 221.

30th April 1857.

Enclosure.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 87.

Encl. in No. 87.

SIR, India Board, April 30, 1857.

YOUR letter of the 4th and 14th instant, with their enclosures, relative to proposed arrangements in the colonies of British Guiana and Jamaica, allowing Coolie immigrants to commute their right to back passages, having been communicated to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, I am directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to transmit to you, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a Despatch which the Court of Directors have addressed to the Government of India upon the subject; and I am desired to add that the Board, as well as the Court, entertain considerable doubts as to the advisability of any such arrangements.

Sub-Enclosure.

I have, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) GEORGE CLERK.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure.

COPY of a Despatch from the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Governor General of India, in Council.

April 1857.

WE forward a No. in the packet, a copy of two letters from the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India, with their respective enclosures, the first relating to a proposal for the commutation of the right of East Indian immigrants to British Guiana to back passages, the second forwarding a copy of an Act of the Legislature of Jamaica, "to provide for an extended industrial service of East Indian "immigrants, for allotting lands to all immigrants who shall fulfil their contracts, and to "make better provision for the return passage of East Indian immigrants."

We should view with great jealousy any proposals for depriving the natives of India of the absolute right to a return passage to their own country, unless such provisions could be framed as would perfectly secure them from the risk of undue influence when it was sought to obtain their consent to an arrangement for keeping them in the colony.

We desire, however, that you take the subject into consideration, and report to us your opinion on it, with as little delay as possible.

No. 88.

No. 88.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 258.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 15, 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 41,† of the 8th ultimo, forwarding two resolutions passed by the Combined Court, having for their object the raising of a loan of 50,000*l.* to defray the cost of introducing certain Coolie immigrants.

† Page 229.

I gather, from the report of their proceedings which accompanies your Despatch, that the Court are desirous of reverting to the arrangement sanctioned by Ordinance, No. 16 of 1855, which authorized Commissioners to raise monies by loan, to be applied towards the first payments of the costs of introducing Coolie immigrants; such advances to be repaid by the parties to whom the Coolies should be assigned. And further, that the Court is desirous

BRITISH GUIANA.

that 3,000 Coolies should be sent to the colony during the season of 1857–8, in addition to the 3,000 already ordered to meet the application made by parties who have expressed their readiness to pay at once the whole sum of £50, the estimated cost of introduction.

I quite concur with you in opinion as to the system of cash payments which, in consequence of inability to effect a loan, you had induced the Combined Court to agree to, and the Court of Policy to give effect to; a system which has worked well during the past season, and which is to be carried out during the next in respect of the 3,000 Coolies ordered. I think that there are obvious advantages attending it, and I cannot but feel doubts with regard to the policy of departing from it. At the same time, if the Combined Court should, upon a reconsideration of the matter, be still desirous of doing so, I am so much impressed with the importance of promoting the supply of labour in the colony by all legitimate means, that I am reluctant to oppose myself to a scheme on the present moderate scale, which, in the opinion of the Combined Court, is calculated to effect that object. I shall not, therefore, refuse to assent to such an amendment of the law as would empower Commissioners to raise a loan not exceeding 50,000*l.* for this service; but I cannot assent to the loan being raised, as proposed by the Combined Court, upon the most favourable terms, that is, without limit as to the rate of interest. In the present state of the money market it may be necessary to pay a high rate for money, and I am prepared to sanction a limit as far as 10 per cent., on the condition that the borrowers are charged with an equal rate for what is advanced to them.

With respect to the 3,000 additional Coolies, I should much fear that the agents in India would not be able to procure them in addition to the 3,000 ordered for British Guiana and those required for Trinidad. And the Combined Court must clearly understand that in the event of a loan being raised, and applications being made by parties for these Coolies, their wants could not be met until the previous requirements had been satisfied.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 89.

No. 89.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 259.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 15, 1857.

IN your Despatch of the 20th February, No. 26,* you forwarded a resolution of the Court of Policy praying that emigrants might not be sent to Mauritius from India during the six months allotted to West Indian emigration.

* Page 222.

I have to acquaint you in reply that I have this request of the Court of Policy under consideration; but under any circumstances I shall not be disposed to make a change in the present year.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 90.

No. 90.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 262.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 25, 1857.

† Page 124.
Enclosure 1.
Extract.
22nd April 1857.
2nd May 1857.
Enclosure 2.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 6th May 1857, No. 252,† in which I have informed you that the Emigration Commissioners have been authorized to take steps for sending to British Guiana the 3,000 Coolies for whom you state, in your Despatch, No. 23, of the 20th of February, that you have received applications, I transmit to you the enclosed extract from a report from the Emigration Commissioners, with the copy of a further report from them.

I also annex a copy of the answer which I have directed to be returned to those reports, from which you will learn how far I have authorized the Commissioners to carry out the suggestions they have made.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 90.

Extract of Report of Emigration Commissioners, dated 22d April 1857.

WE take, however, the present opportunity for bringing under Mr. Labouchere's notice several questions of detail respecting Coolie emigration, especially from Madras, which ought to be settled before the commencement of the emigration season.

Mr. Caird some time since recommended that captains of Coolie ships should receive a rupee a head on every emigrant landed alive, if the mortality was short of two per cent., and a further bonus of 10*l.* if no deaths occurred. This was approved by Mr. Labouchere, and communicated to the West Indian colonies concerned. Grenada has concurred in Mr. Labouchere's decision. But it appears that in British Guiana it is the ordinary practice to pay a dollar a head on the emigrants landed, to be divided between the master and officers; and Mr. Wodehouse has suggested that it will be hard to make this dependent on casualties for which the officers may not be responsible.

In our Report, however, of the 17th * ultimo, we urged the advantages confessedly derivable from giving the officers a direct interest in the health of the Coolies, and proposed that the gratuity should consist of a dollar a head on every person (of whatever age) embarked in India, subject to a deduction of 10 dollars for every person who may have died on the voyage, or may be landed so sick as to be incapable of work.

* Page 121.

The result would be that if the sick or deceased persons amounted to one tenth of the number embarked, the gratuity would be wholly lost. Of the sum paid we would propose that one moiety should be given to the captain, and the other divided among the officers in such proportion as the immigration agent might think fit.

We would request to be informed whether we shall be at liberty to direct Mr. Caird to promise this gratuity to the masters and officers of Coolie ships.

In our letter of the 25th November † (paragraph 8) we reported that we had authorized Mr. Thomson to give a small bonus to Coolies, if by so doing he could induce them to emigrate to the West Indies. Our Report having been forwarded to the West Indies, the Legislative Council of Trinidad have resolved that the emigration agents in India should be authorized to give, if necessary, a bonus to each adult Coolie of five rupees, by way of free gift, and an advance, not exceeding ten rupees, to be repaid out of his wages.

† Page 109.

We would request leave to forward this resolution to the emigration agents at Calcutta and Madras, and to authorize them to adopt the course there laid down (if necessary) in the whole of the West Indian emigration.

We have also received an appeal from one of the surgeons employed in Coolie ships, respecting the rate of remuneration, which is four rupees, or 8*s.*, a head on the Coolies landed alive. It is urged that the service involves three voyages,—to the East Indies, to the West Indies, and back to England,—that the charge of Coolies, from their habits and from the diseases (cholera and dysentery) to which they are subject, is much more unpleasant, if not dangerous, than that of Australian emigrants, and that the same remuneration might fairly be expected. In the Australian service the pay of a surgeon rises from 10*s.*, in the case of a new officer, to 16*s.* a head on the emigrants landed alive; and though we do not think that the same qualifications are always required for the management of a Coolie ship as for English emigrants, yet, considering the nature of the service, we would request Mr. Labouchere's leave to pay the surgeons of Coolie ships, for the first voyage, at the rate of 10*s.* a head on the emigants landed alive, and for all subsequent voyages at the rate of 12*s.* We annex an extract from the letter in which this increase of remuneration has been urged on us.

On all these points it is necessary that the practice should be uniform, and therefore perhaps that the question should be settled by the Secretary of State, in conformity with what may be presumed to be the desire of the colonists. A bonus of this kind has already been suggested by Mr. Wodehouse.

The remaining questions relate to emigration from Madras.

In his letter of the 14th of January last, enclosed in our Report of the 14th ‡ ultimo, Mr. Franklin stated that if the emigration to Mauritius were suspended during half the year, it would perhaps be possible to despatch two or three ships during that period, but that "he would not bind himself to promise that number," as much would depend on the demand for labour at home, and consequently on the operations of the Indian Government. He recommends, therefore, that no ships should be chartered in England, but that the agent should be authorized to take up vessels. Of the propriety of this recommendation there can be no doubt, and we shall accordingly charter no ships for Madras during the ensuing season.

‡ Page 119.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Mr. Franklin also points out that difficulties may arise from his being responsible partly to the Mauritius Government, partly to this Board, and he suggests that "although "bound to obey to the best of his abilities such instructions regarding details as may be "transmitted by the Government of Mauritius, he should be *responsible* to the Commis- "sioners alone." As regards the West Indian emigration he will of course receive orders only from this Board. But it appears to us that in regard to the Mauritius emigration he should obey the orders of the Governor (by whom we imagine he was appointed), except when those orders conflict with directions which the Secretary of State has authorized us to communicate to him. On this point we would request Mr. Labouchere's instructions.

Mr. Franklin further points out that the mode of remunerating him (at the rate of a rupee for every emigrant despatched) is at variance with the second clause of the Schedule to the Indian Act, No. 21 of 1844 (P.P. 18 of 1846), which declares that the agent's remuneration shall not depend on the number of emigrants shipped by him, but shall be in the nature of an annual salary. The same objection, in principle, applies to a promise lately given to the agents, that they shall receive two rupees per adult on all emigrants despatched by them in any one year, above the number of 2,000.

On this point we would observe, that fraud upon the emigrants, against which it was intended to guard by this provision, is in fact more likely to be perpetrated by the native collectors (who can scarcely be paid otherwise than according to the number of persons collected) than by officers holding the responsible office of emigration agent, and that a check on those evils exists in the office of Protector. We may also point to the singular freedom from such abuse which, as far as we know, has attended the collection of emigrants, both for Mauritius and for the West Indies. And we cannot but hope that if the matter were brought to the notice of the Indian Government, they might not object to withdraw this prohibition, which, though probably prudent when it was enacted, can hardly, we would submit, be now considered necessary.

In the meantime, however, the question arises what salary may be promised to Mr. Franklin, who it appears is not likely to send more than 1,000 emigrants, and may send none. The original rate of remuneration would give 100*l.* for the maximum number of 1,000, but this appears to us too small a sum to secure efficient service. We would propose to offer 200*l.* for the next season, with an intimation that this was a provisional arrangement, and that if the success of the emigration were unexpectedly great the amount would be re-considered, or that we might even feel justified in recommending to the Secretary of State that a gratuity should be awarded him.

Lastly, Mr. Franklin suggests that the supply of emigrants would be facilitated by reducing the industrial residence from ten to five years. It may possibly turn out (and this we believe was the opinion of the Indian Government) that without such a concession a sufficient emigration can hardly be maintained. But we feel little doubt that the concession, if made at all, should be made at Calcutta as well as Madras; and speaking in the interest of the West Indian colonies, it does not appear to us that the uncertain prospect of increasing the very unpromising emigration from Madras, would at all justify such a sacrifice in respect of that which is proceeding at present more freely from Calcutta.

If Mr. Labouchere should concur in these opinions, we would propose in the course of next month to instruct Mr. Franklin to recommence his operations, so as to be able to despatch his first ship, if possible, in the beginning of September.

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure.

(Extract.)

FINALLY, I would beg most respectfully to bring the claims of the medical officers for further remuneration under your kind consideration. When the medical officer is appointed in England he has a long and in many cases a dangerous voyage to undertake, and then to remain in port a month or six weeks before he embarks his emigrants; he then commences another voyage equally long and more dangerous, and under the most unpropitious circumstances.

He has committed to his care a people of whose habits and language he is, in most cases, ignorant, and who unfortunately are peculiarly susceptible of two of the most dangerous and fatal diseases that the medical man is called upon to treat (cholera and dysentery), one if not both of which invariably make their appearance in a few hours after leaving port, and who can tell when or where their fearful ravages may stop? When stricken by one serious malady they quietly lie down to die, seldom making application for relief, so that the medical officer must be constantly amongst them if he would meet disease at its commencement. In many cases he has to inflict some punishment before he can get them to take food or medicine.

Many of their habits, too, are most disgusting; this the medical officer has to contend with daily, and try to counteract its injurious effects on the cleanliness and discipline of the ship; so that between attending to the sick and trying to bring the people into some state of discipline, I have no hesitation in saying that his duties are five times as heavy as on board an English emigrant vessel, and more foreign to his feelings and habits.

You are also well aware, gentlemen, of the fearful mortality on board Coolie ships from time to time, and without any neglect on the part of the medical officer.

These are circumstances which I consider give the medical officer a strong claim for further remuneration.

Apologizing for intruding the claims of myself and fellow labourers,

I have, &c.

Trinidad, March 25, 1857. (Signed) JOHN C. BURY,
Late Surgeon Superintendent, ship "Adelaide."

Enclosure 2 in No. 90.

SIR, Emigration Office, May 2, 1857.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 25th ultimo, enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Governor of British Guiana respecting the gratuity payable to the masters and surgeons of Coolie ships engaged in the emigration which is proposed to be set on foot from Bombay.

2. It was proposed by this Board that the surgeons and officers in these ships should receive from the colonial government a gratuity of a dollar a head on every emigrant landed alive, subject to a deduction of 5*l.* on every person dying on the voyage or landed sick.

3. On this Mr. Wodehouse observes that where great sickness and mortality has arisen from circumstances over which the surgeon and officers had no control, those officers, after the most praiseworthy conduct, may lose their whole gratuity from the very circumstance which had multiplied their duties and anxieties. He proposes, therefore, that the gratuity should be paid without deduction, and suggests that the Governor should be enabled to increase it in cases of especial good conduct.

4. As by your letter of the 24th ultimo we were informed that the Government of India had refused to allow emigration in private ships from Bombay on any terms, this question might be considered as disposed of were it not that in our letter of the 22nd instant we made a proposal of a similar kind respecting the Government emigration.

5. That proposal did not extend to surgeons, whose allowance of four rupees (or as we have lately recommended, from 10*s.* to 12*s.*) a head is not, in fact, a gratuity but a remuneration, and the only remuneration which they receive for their services; but it was to the effect that a gratuity of one dollar a head on the emigrants embarked, less 10 dollars a head on those who might die on the voyage, or be incapable of work when landed, should be divided among the ship's officers.

6. It is impossible to deny the truth of Mr. Wodehouse's objection to this proposal, although its force is somewhat weakened by the consideration that the payment to the officers is not a matter of justice, but strictly a *gratuity* additional to the pay which they receive from their employers.

7. It appears to us, however, that if the gratuity is almost a fixed sum, payable as a matter of course, except on proof of misbehaviour, it will not effect the particular object for which it is given. The officers will be aware that so long as they avoid positive and proveable misconduct, they have little to gain by zeal or to lose by indifference. A gratuity, on the contrary, which varies, and varies largely, with good or ill success is a stimulus—generally much more so than in proportion to its mere pecuniary amount—to do with alacrity all that is calculated to secure that success. We are therefore unwilling to abandon the principle of this forfeiture.

8. And it seems to us that Mr. Wodehouse's objection would be entirely obviated if it were understood that the Governor were at liberty to make a special addition to the legal rate of gratuity in any case where the officers were shown to have exerted themselves heartily on behalf of the Coolies. In this case the main difference between our own proposal and the existing practice would be that an unusual amount of sickness and mortality would be *primâ facie* ground for diminishing the gratuity. On a healthy voyage the gratuity would be payable, of course; on an unhealthy one, the *onus* of proving that it has been merited would be thrown on the officers. This does not appear to us unreasonable.

9. We are quite ready, however, to believe, on the grounds of Mr. Wodehouse's despatch, that the amount of the deduction may be too large, and it would certainly be inexpedient to make it so large as to create any general dissatisfaction among the officers employed in the service. Perhaps it may be advisable to reduce it from ten dollars to six dollars on each person (except infants) dying on board, or landed incapable of work.

10. Mr. Wodehouse's strong representation that, with a sufficiency of labour, British Guiana could be of material assistance to this country in the supply of cotton, will doubtless attract Mr. Labouchere's attention. It is not, however, connected at the present moment with any practical suggestion for the increase of immigration, though it furnishes some reason for regretting that the Governments of Bombay are disinclined to encourage emigration from that quarter.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure 3 in No. 90.

Encl. 3 in No. 90.

GENTLEMEN, Downing Street, May 25, 1857.

1. IN answer to your report of the 22d of April I am directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to authorize you to proceed with the necessary arrangements for sending to British Guiana the 3,000 Coolies for whom the Governor states, in his Despatch No. 23 of the 20th of February, that he has received applications for the season 1857–8.

2. The question of the gratuity to the masters and surgeons of Coolie ships is treated of in your further letter of the 2d of May, reporting upon a subsequent Despatch * of Governor Wodehouse, in which he argues against the principle of cutting down the gratuities in proportion to the number of deaths.

* No. 37. March 24th 1857.

3. As regards the rate of remuneration to the surgeons of Coolie ships, Mr. Labouchere is of opinion that 10*s.* a head on the Coolies landed alive should be paid for the first voyage. If the conduct of the surgeon shall have been completely satisfactory, and he be recommended for such increase, the payment may be raised to 11*s.* a head for the next voyage, and on further recommendation and favourable report to 12*s.* as a maximum. Mr. Labouchere also consents to the rule which you propose, fixing the amount of reduction on the gratuity to six dollars on each person (except infants under one year) dying on board, or incapable of work when landed.

4. Mr. Labouchere approves of your authorizing the emigration agent in India to give to each Coolie the bonus and advance proposed in the 8th paragraph of your report of 22d April, on account of the whole of the West Indian emigration.

5. Mr. Labouchere concurs in your view (par. 14 of your report) as to the instructions which should be addressed to Mr. Franklin in regard to his degree of responsibility to the Government of Mauritius and to yourselves respectively.

6. With reference to the salary to be paid to Mr. Franklin, Mr. Labouchere thinks that, as it is independent of that which he receives from Mauritius, 200*l.* would be a sufficient remuneration for his services.

7. Finally, Mr. Labouchere agrees with you that it is inexpedient to concede the reduction of the industrial residence from ten to five years, which is suggested by Mr. Franklin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. MERIVALE.

No. 91.

No. 91.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 268.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 4, 1857.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 45,† of April the 20th, forwarding a Proclamation fixing the rates of bounties on the importation of immigrants, amended according to the instructions conveyed in my Despatch, No. 173, of the 11th of November last.

† Page 230.

I have to express my approval of this Proclamation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

No. 92.

No. 92.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(No. 271.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 12, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you the copy of a Report from the Emigration Commissioners, with the copy of a letter from Mr. Caird relative to the treatment of Coolies.

June 2, 1857.

I have to instruct you to furnish the information as to the current rate of wages in British Guiana, applied for in the Report of the Emigration Commissioners (paragraph 17), dated 14th May 1856, which was forwarded in my Despatch, No. 86,‡ of the 31st of that month.

‡ Page 89.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 92.

SIR, Emigration Office, June 2, 1857.

WE enclose the copy of a letter which we have received from Mr. Caird in answer to a communication in which we enclosed the regulations promulgated in Grenada respecting the treatment of Coolies.

2. Mr. Caird's letter states his opinion that 10*d.* a day is not sufficient pay for a good labourer, and he adds what is more important, the fact that the Coolies were led to expect that they could earn much more.

3. The expectations which the Indians were led to entertain were probably grounded on the notice framed by this Board in 1851, and printed in the appendix to our report of 1852, page 187. It was there stated that no guarantee could be given as to wages, which of course were liable to variation, but that on the 13th May 1851 the wages which might be earned in British Guiana were estimated at 1*s.* 4*d.* a day.

4. In Mauritius the wages at which a newly arrived immigrant is indentured are usually 10*s.* a month, or about 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, besides rations, which would seem to be slightly more than the net* wages (after deducting the cost of provisions) in Grenada.

5. It is of course absolutely necessary to secure that the Coolies should not be allowed to entertain any false impressions respecting their probable remuneration. And we would, therefore, suggest that the Governors of British Guiana, Trinidad, and St. Lucia should be requested to furnish the information mentioned in our report of 14th May 1856 (paragraph 17), which we believe has only been received from Grenada. In St. Lucia we perceive that the Coolies will receive *the current wages of the colony*, but we are not aware what those wages are.

6. We would further suggest that copies of Mr. Caird's letter should be forwarded to the Lieutenant-Governors of St. Lucia and Grenada, and it should be pointed out to them that in case the wages at which the Coolies are indentured in these islands should be materially less than those obtainable in the principal West Indian colonies, it will be impossible for Her Majesty's Government to allow that they should be kept in ignorance of that fact, and that it must necessarily follow that they will proceed to those destinations in which the highest wages are obtainable.

7. It will be for the Colonial Governments to consider whether it will be for their interest to raise their offer or to run the risk of repelling immigrants.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH. FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sub-Enclosure.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta, April 8, 1857.

SIR,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of the 19th December last, enclosing copy of the regulations framed in Grenada for the medical care and proper treatment of the Coolies during sickness, and which appear to be very satisfactory.

2. With regard, however, to the rate of wages each Coolie will be entitled to receive on his arrival in Grenada, as shown in the extract of a Despatch from the Governor of that colony, dated the 6th October 1856, and which also accompanies the regulations above noticed, I would beg to remark that I consider 10*d.* per diem for a good labourer, who performs a fair day's work, too little, and very much below what the Coolies were led to expect they could earn in one day.

3. In order to make the Coolies who have gone to Grenada industrious and valuable labourers, the colonists must be prepared to pay them liberally and regularly, and treat them with the greatest kindness. At the same time their employers should exact from them, in return, punctuality to their work, and punish them inexorably for every offence.

I have, &c.

S. Walcott, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) T. CAIRD, Emigration Agent.

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* Wages for a week at 10*d.* a day - - - 60*d.*
10 lbs. of rice at 2½ - - - 25*d.*
3 „ salt fish at 2½ - - - 7½*d.*
32½*d.*

Net gain in wages - - 27½*d.*
Wages for a week at Mauritius - - 30

Excess over Grenada - - 2½

No. 93.

No. 93.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 279.)

Sir, Downing Street, June 25, 1857.

* Page 232. I have received your Despatch, No. 57,* of the 21st of May, reporting that the Combined Court had abandoned the resolutions forwarded in your previous Despatch, No. 41,† of the 8th of April, for raising a loan of 50,000*l.* for immigration.

† Page 229.

I have to refer you, on this subject, to my Despatch, No. 258, of the 15th of May.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 94.

No. 94.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 290.)

Sir, Downing Street, July 30, 1857.

‡ Page 234. I have received your Despatch, No. 75,‡ of the 18th of June, in which you forward resolutions of the Combined Court praying for the re-establishment of immigration from China.

The attention of Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China has been drawn to the subject, and I should be very glad if it were found practicable to give the Colony the benefit, under proper conditions, of Chinese industry.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 95.

No. 95.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., to Governor Wodehouse.

(No. 294.)

Sir, Downing Street, July 31, 1857.

With reference to my Despatch of the 12th May last, No. 254, I have now the satisfaction of transmitting to you a copy of a letter from the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, with copy of a Despatch from the Government of India, from which you will find that the Governor General and Council have signified their assent to the proposed plan of emigration from Bombay to the West Indies to be conducted by private parties.

7th July 1857. Enclosure 1.

I also transmit to you for your information, and in order that the necessary steps may be taken in the Colony for giving effect to the plan as sanctioned, a copy of a letter from the Emigration Commissioners, to whom I directed the letter from the India Board to be referred.

28th July 1857. Enclosure 2.

As soon as I shall receive from you an Ordinance amending the Ordinance, No. 7 of 1854, in the manner pointed out by the letter from the Emigration Commissioners, and I shall have learnt the wishes of the Colony, as to effect being given to this plan of private immigration, I will request the Court of East India Directors to communicate to the Governor of Bombay my wish that he should select a gentleman for the office of emigration agent.

I have, &c.

Governor Wodehouse, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 95.

Encl. 1 in No. 95.

SIR, India Board, July 7, 1857.

I AM desired by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to transmit to you a copy of a letter from Sir James Melvill, together with a copy of the Despatch from the Government of India therein referred to, respecting the proposed scheme for introducing Coolie labourers from Bombay into British Guiana in private ships.

Sub-Enclosure 1. 2nd July 1857.

Sub-Enclosure 2. 31st March 1857.

In laying these papers before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, I am to request that you will inform Mr. Labouchere that the Board concur in the opinion of the Court of Directors of the East India Company that, under the conditions suggested there would be no objection to a trial of the proposed system at Bombay.

I am, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) GEORGE CLERK.

Sub-Enclosure 1 to Enclosure in No. 95.

Sub-Encl. 1 to Encl. 1 in No. 95.

SIR, East India House, July 2, 1857.

I AM commanded by the Court of Directors to request that the attention of the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India may be directed to the letter from the Government of India, in the Public Department, dated 31st March (No. 24) 1857, relating to the proposed plan of introducing Coolie labourers from Bombay into British Guiana in private ships.

2. The main difference between the proposed scheme and the Government plan of emigration now in force at Calcutta and Madras, consists, as observed by the Government of India, in that the contracts of service are to be made on behalf of private individuals in India, instead of in the colony, and that the emigrants who may have entered into such contracts are to be conveyed to the colony in private ships, instead of in ships chartered by the Government. On the understanding stated by them, as to the details of the scheme, and subject to the maintenance of the provisions of Acts No. 21 of 1844, and No. 4 of 1852, with such slight modifications as are rendered necessary by the very nature of the proposed arrangement, the Government of India "entertain no objection to the "plan, and do not apprehend that the emigrants are likely to be less protected under the "proposed system, than under that at present in force at Calcutta and Madras."

3. The Government of India, when their letter was prepared, were not in possession of the rules which had been approved by the authorities of British Guiana for carrying into effect the proposed plan of emigration now in question, and they were ignorant of the intention to abolish the bounty payable on the Coolies introduced into the colony by private persons, and of the consequent absence of the security for the proper treatment of the Coolies on board ship referred to in the Report of Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners, of the 5th February last. It is not probable, however, that this alteration would make any essential change in the view taken of the general scheme by the Government of India.

4. The Court agree with the Government of India, that the objections to the proposed plan of emigration stated by the Government of Bombay, in connection with the state of the labour market at Bombay, afford no ground for rejecting the proposal, or for not affording to the natives of that presidency the option of transferring their labour to another country, if disposed to do so. It is further the opinion of the Court that, provided all the conditions stated by the Government of India shall be strictly complied with, dependent also on the views which may be taken by the Government of India of the suggestions made by the Emigration Commissioners for the purpose of ensuring the welfare of Coolies on their passage to British Guiana, there is no sufficient reason why a trial of the proposed system should not be made at Bombay.

5. The Court suggest that, if the Board concur in this opinion, the letter of the Government of India be communicated to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, in order that there may be no room for mistake as to the conditions on which the proposed scheme is agreed to; and that it be pointed out that the requisite measures must be passed by the Legislature of British Guiana, and the necessary rules framed by the Government, before the plan can be permitted to come into operation.

I have, &c.

The Secretary, India Board.

(Signed) JAMES C. MELVILL.

Sub-Enclosure 2 to Enclosure 1 in No. 95.

Sub-Encl. 2 to Encl. 1 in No. 95.

Copy of a Despatch from the Government of India to the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

No. 24, 1857.

(31st March.)

Fort William, March 31, 1857.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 114 of 1856, dated the 26th November, relative to a proposal for the introduction of Coolie labourers from the Bombay Presidency into British Guiana by private individuals,

BRITISH GUIANA.

2. The scheme, as set forth in the Report of Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners, enclosed in the above Despatch, differs little from the system of emigration now in force, except in this, that contracts of service are to be made in India (under the surveillance of a Protector,) instead of in the Colony, and that the emigrants who have so contracted are to be conveyed to the Colony in private ships (under proper precautions), instead of in ships chartered by the Government.

3. The Government of Bombay, a copy of whose letter will be found in the collection, have not entered at all upon the consideration of the proposed scheme, or afforded the local information with which they were required by your Honourable Court to furnish us; but have simply expressed their objections to the scheme on the following grounds:—

1st.—That there is an abundant demand for labour at present in the Bombay Presidency.

2nd.—That emigrants from Bombay would not, in all probability, be induced to proceed to British Guiana; and,

3rd.—That to encourage emigration thither would not, under existing circumstances, be conducive to the good either of the country or of the persons who might be induced to emigrate, for whom there is ample and remunerative occupation at home.

4. The Government of Bombay further state, that if it be determined to make the attempt, such emigration should take place in strict conformity to the provisions of Act No. 21 of 1844, and not according to any system of private agency.

5. It appears to us that the grounds urged by the Bombay Government do not apply solely to a system of emigration to be carried on by private enterprise, but that they extend equally to an emigration to be carried on by the agents of the Government of British Guiana, such as is now authorized by law, and actually carried on from the ports of Calcutta and Madras.

6. The fact that there is an abundant demand for labour at Bombay does not, in our opinion, constitute a reason for prohibiting a labourer, if he pleases, from going thence to some place where there is a still more abundant demand for labour; and if persons would not be induced to emigrate, as the Bombay Government suppose, there can be no reason for preventing them by law from emigrating.

7. As to the third ground of objection taken to the scheme by the Bombay Government, viz., that emigration would not be conducive to the good either of the country or of the emigrants themselves, it may be remarked, that, it must be for the good of every country that every person in it should be free to do what is best for himself, and of that he must be permitted to be the best judge, provision only being made to prevent any deception being practised on him.

8. None of the objections urged by the Bombay Government, it will be observed, have any foundation upon the only ground that justifies restriction, viz., the liability to gross abuse if the system be not strictly regulated; and no attempt is made to show that regulation will not prevent abuse at Bombay, as at Calcutta and Madras.

9. The Bombay Government also appear to us to labour under a mistake in supposing that the proposed plan of emigration, and the provisions of Act No. 21 of 1844, are repugnant to one another. It is not proposed to authorize private persons to collect emigrants. The proposed alterations of systems, as we understand them, amount to no more than this; that, when the emigrants have been collected at Bombay by a public emigration agent, as at present they are collected at Calcutta and Madras, instead of being despatched to the colony in a ship provided by the agent under no contract to serve any one particular planter, they should be sent off in a ship provided by a particular planter, and go under contract to serve that planter; the contract of service being, we presume, in all other respects similar to what it is now after the emigrants are allotted to the planters on arrival. It is proposed that all regulations for the protection of the emigrant on shipboard, and in the colony, and all the precautions now taken in India by the colonial agent and the Indian protector for preventing deception or abuse in collecting emigrants, and for obtaining their consent to leave India, and all other rules, shall remain exactly as at present.

10. We entertain, therefore, no objection to the plan of emigration from Bombay proposed by the Emigration Commissioners, provided the substantive provisions of Act No. 21 of 1844, as amended by Act No. 4 of 1852, be allowed to remain in force, with the proposed exception of transferring to the protector of emigrants some of the duties now required to be performed by the emigration agent (connected with shipping arrangements), and of dispensing with the necessity of an engagement by Government.

11. We understand that the Commissioners, in proposing that the duties of the emigration agent are not to extend to any part of the shipping arrangements, intend to transfer to the protector the duties now imposed upon the emigration agent by Act No. 21 of 1844, sec. 7, clause 2; and that those duties in respect to emigrants in privately chartered ships will devolve upon the protector.

12. The main alteration desired by the Colony is, as we understand the proposal, to get rid of the necessity of an engagement on the part of the Government with the emigrants, and to allow them to be engaged by the emigration agent on the part of private individuals.

13. With respect to the contracts of service to be entered into with the emigrants, it appears to be the plan of the Commissioners,— BRITISH GUIANA.

1st. That they are to be in a form to be approved by the Government of India.

2d. That they are to be for service on the estates or plantations of the importers.

And, 3d. That the emigrants are not to be bound to work on estates which from climate or other circumstances may be considered by the local Government as unfit for the reception of emigrants.

In other respects, we presume, the contract will be similar to that contained in the British Guiana Ordinance, No. 7, 1854.

14. We attach much importance to these provisions. The second we are of opinion is quite necessary, as we do not think that the importers should have the power of allotting the emigrants to others, or of letting out their services, a system that would be liable to great abuse. The third is also important, inasmuch as under the proposed system the emigrants will have no choice as to location, as they have at present, after their arrival in the colony; and without some such clause in the agreement the emigrants might be sent to estates unfit for their reception, either on account of climate or some other cause.

15. The contracts, we are of opinion, should also contain a clause to the effect that the master will provide comfortable accommodation and a suitable hospital and medical attendance in case of sickness.

16. Previously to the proposed system being sanctioned, the British Guiana Ordinance must be amended so as to provide the same protection to emigrants who may enter in contracts here, as is provided by the Ordinance for indentured immigrants, by which words we mean emigrants indentured or located under section 20 of the Ordinance. Such, for instance, are the provisions against ill-usage; the failure to provide employment upon which, according to the terms of the contract, the wages depend, the granting of certificates of industrial residence, and the provision of accommodation, a hospital, medicines, &c.

17. If any Act be passed here to authorize emigration upon the terms proposed, which will not, of course, be done before the views of your Honourable Court shall have been communicated to us, we think it should not come into effect until the Governor General in Council is satisfied that proper provision has been made in the Colony for the protection of such Coolies as may emigrate under contracts with private individuals, one of the arrangements being that a back passage shall be provided by the Colonial Government for any emigrant who may have emigrated under a private contract, and who may become permanently unfit for labour by accident or sickness. We are of opinion that the Colonial Government should be bound, in such a case, and also after the completion of the term of industrial residence, to provide a return passage, or to see that it is provided, and should look to the importer for repayment under his bond, if necessary.

18. If these matters are properly attended to, we do not apprehend that the emigrants are likely to be less protected under the proposed system than under that at present in force at Calcutta and Madras.

19. As the vessel for the conveyance of the emigrants is to be taken up, not at Bombay, but in Guiana or elsewhere, punctuality and exact co-operation between the emigration agent in Bombay and the charterers of the vessel in Guiana will be necessary, in order to prevent the Coolies being made to wait for the ship, or the ship for the Coolies.

Enclosure 2 in No. 95. Encl. 2 in No. 95.

SIR, Emigration Office, July 28, 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of 10th instant, inclosing a letter from the Board of Control, with one from the Directors of the East India Company and a Despatch from the Government of India, on the subject of emigration from Bombay to British Guiana at the expense and in the ships of individual planters.

2. In the report from this Board of the 10th October last will be found an explanation of the proposed scheme, and a statement of the regulations under which, as it appeared to us, the emigration might be conducted with safety to the Coolies and with advantage to the importers. When that report was written, it was intended that the emigrants should be introduced on bounty under the 5th and 13th Sections of the Ordinance No. 7 of 1854, in which case they would have been entitled to all the advantages and protection secured by the Ordinance to emigrants introduced in vessels chartered by the Government. But in consequence of the confusion likely to arise in apportioning the payment of the preliminary expenses of collection, maintenance, &c., it was afterwards decided to withdraw the bounty, and throw the whole expense of the passage on the importers, the colony as an equivalent taking on itself the whole of the preliminary expenses.

3. The scheme was submitted by the Board of Directors to the Government of India and of Bombay. The Government of Bombay expressed its disapproval on three grounds: first, that there was ample employment for the labouring population in Bombay; secondly, that emigrants would probably not be induced to proceed to British Guiana; and, thirdly, that their doing so would not be conducive to their own advantage or that of Bombay. These objections were communicated to the Home Government, and, I presume, to the Governor of British Guiana. They were also communicated by the Governor of Bombay to the Governor General of India, and the Despatch forwarded by the Board of Directors contains the opinion of the General Government of India upon them.

BRITISH GUIANA.

4. The Government of India observe that the objections of the Government of Bombay apply not to the particular scheme in question alone, but to every scheme of emigration from Bombay to British Guiana, including the system actually in operation at the two other Presidencies; that the existence of a demand for labour in Bombay is not a reason for preventing a labourer from seeking employment where the demand is still greater, if he chooses to do so; that if he is not likely to be induced to emigrate there can be no motive for a law prohibiting his doing so, and that it is for the good of a country that the inhabitants should be at liberty to do whatever they consider best for themselves. They point out that the chief difference between the proposed and the existing emigration is, that in the former the emigrant will proceed in a private ship and under engagement to a particular planter, instead of in a Government ship and without special engagement; and that all the precautions now taken for the protection of emigrants on the voyage and in the colony will be applied under the new, as well as under the existing scheme. They state, therefore, that they entertain no objection to the plan of emigration from Bombay as explained in our Report of 10th of October last, the conditions of which they recapitulate correctly; but they point out that previously to the sanction of the proposed system, the British Guiana Ordinance must be amended so as to extend to the emigrants to be introduced under the new system, the same protection as it affords to those introduced under the existing system.

5. I would submit that a copy of this Despatch, and of the letter from the Directors in which it is inclosed, should be transmitted to the Governor of British Guiana for his information and guidance. The necessity for a new Ordinance arises principally from the interpretation given in the 62nd section of the Ordinance, No. 7 of 1854, to the word immigrant. It is there enacted, that "the word immigrant shall include all immigrants "already introduced, or who may hereafter be introduced into this colony at the expense "of the British Treasury, or at the expense of this colony, or for whose introduction, "although the same may be under private contract, the colony may hereafter pay "bounty." As this interpretation would not apply to the immigrants in question, the whole expense of whose passage is to be defrayed by the importing planter, they would in fact be entirely excluded from the benefits of the law. An Ordinance will be necessary to enlarge the legal meaning of the word immigrant, and the same opportunity will of course be taken for altering that part of section 5 which provides for the payment of a bounty on emigrants introduced by private importers. When these alterations have been made, and before the system comes into operation, it will be necessary that an emigration agent should be appointed for the collection of the emigrants applied for; but it is unnecessary to take any steps for that purpose at present.

I have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.

No. 96.

No. 96.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Lieut.-Governor WALKER.

(No. 307.)

SIR, Downing Street, August 27, 1857.

I HAVE received Governor Wodehouse's Despatch of the 2nd ultimo, No. 78,* and I have to convey to you Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance of the ordinance passed by the Court of Policy of British Guiana, entitled, "An Ordinance to regulate the Industrial Residence and the Back "Passages of certain Indian Immigrants, introduced by the Ship 'Blue "Jacket.'"

* Page 235.

No. 1 of 1857.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Walker.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 97.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Lieut.-Governor WALKER.

(No. 316.)

SIR, Downing Street, Sept. 4, 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Governor Wodehouse's Despatch of the 15th July, No. 94,† transmitting copies of two letters addressed to him by

† Page 235.

Mr. O'Donoghue, proposing that the planters of British Guiana should be allowed to send Coolie immigrants as delegates to India, to procure other Coolies for them. BRITISH GUIANA.

I transmit to you for your information a copy of a report from the Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom I directed Mr. Wodehouse's despatch and the enclosures to be referred, and I have to request that you will cause Mr. O'Donoghue to be informed that the immigration agents in India have been called upon for a report upon his proposal.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Walker. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 97. Encl. in No. 97.

SIR, Emigration Office, August 29, 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of the 25th instant, enclosing a copy of a Despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, respecting the mode of collecting Coolies in India.

2. Mr. O'Donoghue, a planter of Berbice, is informed by a Coolie in his employ that the best emigrants for Mauritius are obtained through the agency of individual Coolies despatched as collectors by planters with whom they have served in the colony, the practice being that the Coolies collected by any such delegate shall be assigned to the planter at whose expense he has proceeded to India.

3. Mr. O'Donoghue proposes that a similar system should be adopted in British Guiana, and declares that in that case he and other planters would be prepared to incur the expense of sending out delegates.

4. I have the honour to state that the system above described is certainly, in its outline, similar to one which is pursued, I believe with advantage, in the Mauritius emigration, and I am aware of no reason for objecting to its adoption in British Guiana. It would, however, be desirable that a communication should be first addressed to Messrs. Caird and Franklin, to ascertain what is the exact plan pursued with regard to Mauritius, and whether any modifications would be necessary to secure that the two systems may work harmoniously.

5. It will of course be requisite that these native collectors should act entirely under the orders of the emigration agent, and that care should be taken in India that the emigrants understand what they are doing, and in British Guiana that they are not indentured either below the rate of wages which is promised them or below the rate current in the colony, or to any other employer than the person whom they have contracted to serve. The batches collected by each delegate must also, of course (as a general rule) comprise the required number of females.

6. Unless we receive contrary directions from Mr. Labouchere, we shall by the next mail request Mr. Caird and Mr. Franklin to report their opinions on this subject.

I have, &c.

T. Frederick Elliot, Esq., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 98. No. 98.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Lieut.-Governor WALKER.

(No. 318.)

SIR, Downing Street, September 5, 1857.

I HAVE received Governor Wodehouse's Despatch of the 2nd July, No. 80,* and I have to convey to you Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance of the Ordinance passed by the Governor, and Court of Policy of British Guiana,) entitled, "An Ordinance to appropriate the Sum of Thirty-five thousand Dollars to the Introduction free of Indentures of Emigrants from Maderia, The Azores, and the Canary Islands." * Page 235.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Walker. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Despatches from Lieut.-Governor Walker and Governor Wodehouse.

No. 1.

No. 1.

Copy of DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Walker to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 28.)

Government House, Demerara,
February 25, 1854.
(Received March 28, 1854.)

My Lord Duke, (Answered, No. 31, May 20, 1854, page 31.)

1. I have the honour to report, that upon the receipt of your Grace's important Despatches relative to immigration, which were transmitted by last mail, I lost no time in laying them before the Court of Policy, at a meeting specially convened for that purpose.

2. Some conversation ensued upon the subjects discussed in those Despatches, and the feeling of the elective members appeared to be one of satisfaction at the more liberal terms now offered as the basis of arrangements for conducting immigration from India prospectively. It was, however, agreed that the considerations involved were too momentous to authorize the hasty expression of any opinion in a formal shape; and it was resolved to refer the Despatches to a committee consisting of Messrs. Vander Gon Netscher, Thos. Porter, and John Jones, for report.

3. The members present at the same time intimated their regret that they should have failed to satisfy your Grace that the imputation of "inconsistency "with good faith," applied to the proposal for indenturing Coolies who preferred receiving bounty for further residence to claiming their return passage, was not really merited by the Legislature.

4. Time has not admitted of the preparation of their Report, so as to admit of its being forwarded by this mail; but I have reason to believe that the Committee will recommend to the Legislature the adoption, with some modifications, of the proposals embodied in your Grace's Despatch, No. 175.* With the view of avoiding delay, as it does not seem quite certain that the Coolies of the present season will be regarded as liable to the conditions of the new arrangement, I have suggested the propriety of at once framing a new ordinance for the regulation of immigration, following generally that of 1853, but subject, of course, to the modifications and conditions of your Grace's Despatches, Nos. 48 of 1853, and 175 of the 16th ult.; and, under any circumstances, containing a clause suspending its operation until approved by Her Majesty, so that, should amendments be deemed requisite, they can be made without disturbing existing arrangements, and the measure would not take effect until its provisions were settled by mutual agreement of Her Majesty's Government and the local Legislature.

* Page 1.

5. In reference to the observations contained in the 11th paragraph of your Grace's Despatch, No. 175, I take the liberty respectfully to submit that the term "commuted," as applied to the arrangement under which certain Indian immigrants have agreed to postpone their claim to a return passage, is liable to misconstruction. The right of every such immigrant to a free return passage at the termination of the second five years' industrial residence has always been recognized, and it was with the view of getting rid of this obligation for the future, that Her Majesty's Government were asked to sanction the absolute purchase of that claim from the Coolie.

6. Again, it is stated that the obligation of entering into renewed contracts of service was, for the period intervening between the first payment of bounties and the passing of the Ordinance of 1853, No. 3, "contrary to law." There can be

no doubt that such arrangement was then for the first time attempted to be carried out under the sanction of an express enactment; but I submit with great deference that it had not been at any time a breach of law. From May 1850 until December 1851, I was absent from the Colony on leave, and therefore cannot speak from personal knowledge as to the nature of the terms on which bounty was paid to the time-expired Coolies for renewing their term of service; but a Minute of Instructions issued by Governor Barkly to the Immigration Agent General and the Inspector General of Police, respectively, for their guidance in dealing with the various classes of Indian immigrants, of which I enclose a copy, bearing date the 15th June 1852, some months prior to the passing of the disallowed Ordinance, No. 3, indicates with sufficient precision His Excellency's own views upon the subject. I also enclose, for the further elucidation of the matter, the Resolution of the Court of Policy alluded to in the 4th paragraph of the Minute, which was adopted on the 23d of January 1852.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

7. It seems therefore clear that the Legislature have invariably assumed that a renewal of the obligations of the original contract of service should be the consideration for the payment of bounty; and we have the assurance of the Bounty Commissioners, that although the actual entering into indentures of service was not in the first instance insisted upon, the immigrants accepting bounty were told that they were liable to that obligation. It is so far unfortunate that those gentlemen do not appear to have placed on record any written report of their proceedings, but of course the statement is entitled to full credit.

8. With respect to the question contained in the sixth paragraph of your Grace's Despatch, No. 169 of the 3d ult., as to the authority under which the Indian immigrants arriving in 1851, 1852, and 1853, up to those received per "Apolline," were indentured for five years, I have the honour to enclose the Reports made to me upon the subject by the present Immigration Agent General, and his predecessor respectively. I have no doubt whatever that the construction of Section 5 of Ordinance No. 21, of the year 1851, was the one relied upon in directing that the original indenture should be for five years; but as immediately upon the receipt of the disallowance of Ordinance No. 3, of 1853, I caused the Immigration Agent General and stipendiary magistrates to be apprised of the error, and that such contracts could only be held to be valid and effectual for three years under the provisions of Ordinance 20 of 1851, it may be, I trust, safely assumed that neither inconvenience nor injustice will result from its occurrence.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. WALKER.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Encl. 1 in No. 1.

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, at its adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Friday, 23rd January 1852.

[After Prayers.]

His Excellency the Governor lays over communication from the Immigration Agent General relative to Coolies entitled to a free passage, or to bounty for remaining for a further period.

It is Ordered,—That a committee be appointed to arrange with regard to the renewal of the engagements of such Coolies whose term of service has expired, or are willing to accept a bounty for remaining in the colony, and to instruct the Immigration Agent General to charter, if necessary, vessels for carrying to India those who may prefer their claim to a free back passage. The following gentlemen were appointed on such committee, with power to associate with themselves, for the purpose of paying such bounties in the various rural districts of the colony, such gentlemen as they may think fit: the Honourable George Booker, the Honourable John Croal, the Honourable Richard Haynes.

True Extract.

W. B. Wolseley,
Acting Secretary.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

1. THE immigration ordinances having been confirmed by Her Majesty, and the Court of Policy having determined on the employment of a sufficient staff of officers to carry their provisions into effect, the Immigration Agent General will have to co-operate to the utmost in promoting this object, by furnishing correct lists of the employers of emigrants liable to pay "contract duty," and full information as to all immigrants not working under contract, and therefore liable for the payment of "monthly sums."

2. Practically speaking, all such immigrants may be assumed to be at present "Coolies," and with regard to the lists of employers it may be concluded that Mr. Humphrys either has furnished or is about forthwith to furnish them; but, with regard to the second point, it would appear from what he told me yesterday, that he has been labouring under a singular misapprehension, and has actually issued sixty tickets of exemption from such monthly sums to Coolies who, having accepted the bounty of £50 on condition of performing a second period of industrial residence in the colony, are to all intents and purposes "new Coolies," bound to pay monthly sums unless working under contract.

3. It is difficult to imagine how an idea so contrary to the oft-expressed intentions of the Secretary of State, of myself, of the members of the Court of Policy, and of the commissioners associated with him for paying the bounty, could seriously be entertained by Mr. Humphrys, especially as he has for several months past been demanding and receiving from employers entering into fresh indentures with such Coolies, the two dollars per head imposed by the ordinance, on the plea that they were "new Coolies," for in that alone could he legally exact a cent!

4. He told me, indeed, that he had been guided by the interpretation, given him by a legal friend, of the literal reading of the ordinance; but it is an old saying, "Show me the case and I will tell you the value of the opinion," and if, as he admits, he confined the "case" to the words of an ordinance in which the payment of bounty is not contemplated, and omitted that important *fact*, with the resolution of the Court of Policy authorizing it, and the conditions accepted and agreed to by those who receive it, it was clearly impossible for any lawyer to arrive at a correct conclusion.

5. Fortunately the question has been definitely settled by the highest legal authority in the service of the Crown, the Attorney and Solicitor General of England having advised the Lords of the Treasury to incur the responsibility of paying these very bounties out of the imperial guaranteed loan, granted for the introduction of immigrants, on the ground that Coolies who thus renewed their engagements became new immigrants within the meaning, not only of the colonial ordinance, but of the Act of Parliament.

6. Common sense and law therefore unite to justify us in treating them in every respect on the same footing with those now arriving from India.

7. Effective measures will therefore be forthwith taken to secure payment of monthly sums from both these classes of Coolies, and Mr. Humphrys must cancel any tickets he has erroneously issued.

8. There is a third class, indeed, who might also be held liable to pay these monthly sums, by a strict construction of Ordinance 21 of 1851, and that is those Coolies of the old immigration who arrived subsequent to the passing of the immigration ordinance, No. 3 of 1848, in which the condition of "industrial residence" was first imposed; but as this would in some degree be to give an "ex post facto" operation to a law which could scarcely have been known to any of the immigrants of that season when they left India, and as moreover their term of five years' service will expire next spring, when they will either quit the colony or re-engage for bounty as "new Coolies," I think it would be inexpedient to make any attempt to enforce payment from any among them who may not chance to be still working on estates.

9. The first step towards getting monthly sums from those liable is, obviously, to arrive at a clear knowledge of the number of Coolies harboured in Georgetown or New Amsterdam, and the circumstances under which they have been allowed so far to deviate from the original object of their introduction as to cease to work in the rural districts.

10. By the census returns there were in Georgetown 210 Calcutta Coolies and 661 Madras; in New Amsterdam, 33 from Calcutta and 120 from Madras. Altogether above a thousand Coolies, whose introduction at the then charges must have cost the colony not very far short of a hundred thousand dollars.

11. In the former city the number would seem even to have since increased, or which is more probable, it was underrated in March 1851, for the Inspector General of Police, after making inquiries, estimated it two or three weeks ago at fully a *thousand*; but of these he thinks three hundred and odd have left the city since public notice was given them that the ordinance was about to be put in force, leaving six hundred and odd to be dealt with.

Vide Sect. 21 of C.Ord. 21 of 1851.

12. Primâ facie, none of these Coolies have any business to be in Georgetown, and it would be incumbent on the police finding them "on any public street, highway, or place," to carry them before a justice of the peace, to give an account of themselves; but it is far from my wish to adopt harsh measures towards ignorant people, as most of them are, located too as they were with so much laxity in the first instance as to justify them in

supposing they might do precisely as they pleased. Moreover there can be little doubt that a large number of them are usefully employed as fishermen, grass cutters, domestics, &c., and that any sudden panic created among them, or any general attempt at expulsion, would be highly inconvenient to the inhabitants of Georgetown.

13. I am prepared, therefore, to follow a very excellent suggestion of the Inspector General of Police, and after due investigation of each man's case to issue to those who may appear entitled to remain in town tin tickets, stamped with a number corresponding with a list, to be kept at the police office, in which full particulars will be recorded. Every Coolie settling in town without one of these tickets will, as a matter of course, be at once arrested, so that there will be little danger of transfer from one to the other; besides which the regular residents being already known to the police, they will soon be coupled with their respective numbers, and any tricks easily detected.

The tickets in such events to be forfeited, as also upon non-payment of monthly sums by any who may be recorded in the list as liable thereto.

14. With a view of ascertaining the necessary details before issuing these tickets, the Inspector General of Police will, on receipt of this intimation, cause the Coolies about town to be taken in parties of twenty or thirty at a time to the Immigration Depôt, where he will either attend himself or send a competent substitute, to verify and determine with the Immigration Agent General the position in which each ought to stand.

15. It seems to me there will be little difficulty in doing this, upon an attentive consideration of the law, and the circumstances which have arisen.

16. The various classes of Coolies entitled to remain in town and receive protection against molestation by the police, may be defined as follows:—

First. "Old Coolies" not liable to monthly tax, including in this category all who have arrived in the colony between 1845 and 1847, provided they have not accepted the bounty of fifty dollars offered for a renewal of their engagement.

Second. Coolies who arrived in the colony in 1848, until such time as they make their election next year.

Third. Coolies who do not come, strictly speaking, under the denomination of "Old Coolies," but who seem nevertheless entitled, either by justice or humanity, to both protection and exemption. Such would be the wives of "old Coolies" long recognized as being so; new Coolies excused through infirmity from paying monthly sums, by my order; those who last year accepted payment of the bounty in full of all claim to back passage; or, not being able-bodied agricultural labourers, were either refused bounty altogether by the Commissioners, or agreed to accept $15, $20, or $25, because they were recognized as residents in town; and, finally, those "New Coolies" who may be willing to repay the colony cost of their introduction, and give up their claim to back passage, on being allowed to act as free agents in every respect. Vide C. Ord. 22 of 1851, sect. 8.

Fourth. "New Coolies" liable to monthly tax, whether those who accepted bounty without binding themselves to any planters, or if there be such, those who, arriving in the seasons of 1851 and 1852, preferred the option afforded them by the Ordinance, of paying monthly sums in lieu of entering into contracts.

17. It does not occur to me that there is any other class of Coolies who have any right to be in town for more than a day's stopping on Saturdays; but of course if any doubtful or omitted case comes under the notice of the Immigration Agent General and Inspector General, they will submit it for my consideration before removing the individual from town to the plantation to which he is indentured.

18. In conclusion, I shall be happy to receive a report from the Inspector General of the numbers in each class to which protection has been granted, and I trust the arrangement will be carried out before the 30th instant, as it is my desire that the collectors should set to work on the 1st July; and there will no doubt be a tendency on the part of idlers and deserters in the rural districts to conceal themselves in the towns directly the monthly tax is demanded from them, against which it must be our object to guard.

(Signed) H. B., 15th June 1852.

True Copy.

(Signed) W. Walker.

No. 2. No. 2.

Copy of DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Walker to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 35.)

Government House, Demerara,
March 10, 1854.
(Received April 1, 1854.)
(Answered, No. 31, May 20, 1854, page 31.)

My Lord Duke,

With reference to my Despatch No. 28,* of the 25th ult., I have now the honour to forward an extract Minute of the proceedings of the Court of Policy, embodying the Report of the Committee to whom was referred your Grace's Despatches upon the subject of immigration. Enclosure 1. Enclosure 2.

* Page 140.

Upon the question of the adoption of this Report by the Court, the official members declined to vote; it may be therefore taken as the expression of the views of the elective section.

At my suggestion the same committee undertook the task of preparing the draft of another ordinance, to be submitted for Her Majesty's approval before taking effect, receiving, of course, the aid of the Attorney General in regard to technical points; and I trust that the result may prove satisfactory to all the parties whose interests are involved in the issue.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. WALKER.

Encl. 1 in No. 2.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, at its adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Monday, March 6, 1854.

[After Prayers.]

The Honourable Mr. Vander Gon Netscher, as chairman of the committee to whom the Despatch No. 175 of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle was referred, brings up the Report and moves that the same be adopted by the Court.

F. I.

The Honourable Mr. Steele seconds. The votes being taken, there appear

For the motion	Against
Honourable Netscher,	
,, Steele,	
,, Jones,	
,, Porter,	
,, Haynes.	

The Honourables the Administrator-General and Attorney-General and His Honour the Chief Justice decline to vote.

Motion declared to be carried.

True Extract.

(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Secretary.

Encl. 2 in No. 2.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2.

REPORT to the Court of Policy of the Elective Members of said Court, in reference to the late Despatches of the Duke of Newcastle on Immigration.

To His Excellency William Walker, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor in and over the Colony of British Guiana, &c. &c., and the Honourable the Court of Policy.

The elective members of the Court of Policy, to whom was referred the Despatch of His Grace the Secretary of State for the Colonies, No. 175, Jan. 16, 1854, have the honour to report:—

That having carefully and deliberately weighed the propositions made by his Grace the Secretary of State as the base of a new Immigration Ordinance, with all the attention which their admitted importance demands, they have much satisfaction in acknowledging amarked improvement in the spirit of those propositions as compared with the terms formerly insisted upon, and they regard the modification or partial removal of the restriction on emigration from India in the concession of a ten years' industrial residence, as the sine qua non for a free return passage, as a step in the right direction, and an acceptable instalment of what is in fairness due to the sorely tried *West India* colonies as well as to the liberty of action supposed to be the privilege of all Her Majesty's subjects.

If, therefore, they cannot entirely approve of the conditions proposed by His Grace, and express their hope that the same are not dictated as an ultimatum, it is not that they are ungrateful or undervalue this first act of justice by the East India Government towards the colonies, and his Grace's desire to give the enterprising planter of British Guiana every facility for the introduction and employment of labour, as expressed in so many words and shown in the suggestions of means by which the difficulties in respect to proof of industrial residence and consequent right to return passage may be overcome, and which may serve as the base of a satisfactory arrangement, if his Grace the Duke and the Honourable Court of Directors will concede in minor points, whilst the colonists are obliged to give in, on what are considered the most important points, namely, the duration of indentures to particular estates, and the ultimate right to return passages.

They, therefore, would most respectfully propose that the conditions, suggested by his Grace, be adopted partly unaltered, partly in an amended form, as following, viz.:—

The first unaltered, as suggested.
The second ,, ,,
The third ,, ,,

The fourth to consist simply of the first two lines suggested, that is to say: At the end of five years the immigrant to be free from any further obligation to come under indenture or contract, and to be allowed to take his place among the free labouring population of the colony for five years more.

The fifth, at the expiration of the ten years' residence, as above, the Coolie immigrant to have a right to return passage on payment of thirty-five dollars, whilst no deduction from his wages shall be made at or during any period of his residence for lodging, medical attendance, hospital accommodation, or any reason whatsoever.

The sixth, a bounty may be offered to the Coolie who has established his right to a return passage as aforesaid, and who may feel inclined to remain in the colony either absolutely or for another term of years without indenture.

The modifications of the fourth suggestion, as now proposed, will, they hope, be conceded, inasmuch as the right of claiming a return passage at his own expense, after but five years' residence, would make the Coolie restless and dissatisfied if no immediate effect could be given to his desire, as would be unavoidably the case, because it would take a long time before a sufficient number of Coolies had deposited their passage money for chartering a vessel, which it cannot be supposed that the colony should do for the accommodation of a few at a time; it would therefore become a cause of dissatisfaction, idleness and trouble, which it cannot be the intention of Her Majesty's Government to bring on us, and on which they trust the authorities in India will not insist if the true state of the matter be explained to them.

The fifth proposition is in accordance with the suggestion of his Grace, and is considered to be decidedly the best, if not the only practical way to get rid of the difficulty of proof of industrial residence during the last five years, as above agreed to, though it should not be forgotten that, in adopting the suggestion, the colony is loser to a considerable amount in a financial point of view, since thirty-five dollars is but a small portion of the cost of a return passage, which was varying from sixty to seventy dollars.

The sixth proposition, though partly refused, is so perfectly fair and natural, that they consider it their duty to recommend the Court again to press the consideration thereof on Her Majesty's Government, as they are fully convinced that there are no valid reasons why they should not be allowed to legalize that which is now matter of private agreement, made openly and in good faith between Her Majesty's free subjects, and which is not in contravention of any existing law or principle of equity; whilst even the objection against the definitive commutation of return passage for a bounty by the Coolie, on account of a family which is supposed to be waiting his return, may be easily met by suggesting that the Coolie immigrants shall be induced as much as possible to bring their families with them, and that no bonus for a definite commutation for return passage shall be offered except to Coolies who are accompanied by their families, and to those who formally declare to have no family left behind in India.

In respect to the right of the Coolie immigrant to determine his contract, they entirely concur in the views of his Grace, and would propose to act accordingly.

Your committee further beg leave to state that they have no desire to prolong a discussion upon so painful an imputation as that of a breach of faith with immigrant labourers; and while they would have gladly hailed even the absence of any allusion to it in his Grace's present Despatch, as affording them the opportunity of considering it disposed of, they feel compelled, in consequence of his Grace reiterating and declining to withdraw or modify the charges, to offer some further explanations upon points which appear to be yet totally misunderstood by his Grace. In doing this they have no intention to urge again the reasons why the Legislature considered the existing ordinances as inadequate, complicated, and unsatisfactory, conceiving that the sufficiency of those reasons was fully explained; first, by Governor Barkly's despatch, No. 7, of 11th February 1853; secondly, in the protest of the elective members of the Court of Policy of 9th August 1853; and is now practically admitted by the permission to legislate again upon the subject; but they must be permitted to observe, that they cannot regard the precedent of the Immigration Ordinance of 1848 as justifying the course adopted of peremptorily disallowing Ordinance No. 3, of 1853.

Her Majesty's Government are well aware that from the time of its passing to the framing of a new Ordinance in 1850, the Ordinance of 1848 was practically a dead letter. No immigrants were introduced for a protracted term, and the condition of public affairs at the time sufficiently explains why the delay took place, and fortunately no such influences were in operation in 1853; and it might have been assumed with good reason that under the presidency of a Governor enjoying the full confidence of Her Majesty's Government as well as that of the colonial Legislature, that any recommendations or even conditions suggested, by way of amendment of Ordinance No. 3, would have been promptly attended to and adopted, for the Legislature well know that it must submit to any terms imposed, labour being indispensable, at any cost and under any restrictions, however burdensome.

To proceed, the 8th section of his Grace's last despatch is as follows:

"The Coolies' consent was not required by law to this indenture, nor did it appear that when they received the colonial bounty they had any warning that its acceptance would be saddled with so stringent a condition."

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It therefore appears necessary more fully to state and elucidate the facts as they occurred in answer to the repeated imputations of "inconsistency with good faith," which they maintain was never deserved by any act in connection with the Legislature of British Guiana.

The first reindenture and payment of bounty for a prolonged industrial residence in this colony was in consequence of immigration having been suspended during two years, 1849–1850, and was based upon the subjoined resolutions adopted by the Combined Court on the 28th December 1849:—

Resolved, 1st. That the Court taking into consideration the present depressed state of the colony and the urgent necessity there is of all legitimate means to increase the amount of manual labour at the disposal of the agricultural interest, would deplore any early removal of the Coolie labourers at the completion of the terms of their industrial residence.

2d. That to prevent, if possible, the departure for the present of so useful a class of labourers, this Court recommends his Excellency the Governor to make arrangements with as many of the Coolie labourers as are entitled to a return passage to India for a renewed term of industrial residence, and the Court authorizes his Excellency to guarantee to such Coolie labourer so renewing his term of service a return passage at the expiration of his new contract.

But for this measure a large amount of labour must have been abstracted before any new supply could be received, and it will be above observed that the condition of service under contract is assumed in their resolutions throughout as a matter of course; and as it was not until some months after this date that operations were entirely commenced, it strengthens the assumption of that which is matter of fact, namely, that the Coolies received abundant warning and information, and well knew their liability to be called upon to enter into contract, as the condition to their receiving bounty.

There was, however, no law authorizing reindentures, or defining the terms upon which it would be carried out, neither was it known what might be the views of Her Majesty's Government in respect to it, the Commissioners while apprizing the immigrants who received bounty that they must be prepared to enter into indentures if called upon, did not conceive themselves authorized to insist upon it as a *sine qua non*, consequently the finances of the colony suffered; for, the people not being indentured, no contract dues were received from the planters, and but few remained attached to any particular estate. The amended Immigration Ordinance, No. 3, of 1853, was preparing, and it was thought expedient, "and in no way inconsistent with good faith," to legalise that which had been before matter of agreement. The Coolies in no one instance objected to indenture, on the contrary were always ready to do so, and would have done so in the first instance, had they been asked, as readily as they have done it since.

They perfectly understood and understand the terms of the bargain they make, and no compulsion has been employed, for none has been necessary.

The use of the word compelled, in the 4th resolution of the 5th March 1853, was perhaps injudicious, considering the unfortunate and undeserved distrust, and "care approaching to jealousy," evinced and expressed on so many occasions, but shows, at the same time, that no choice words and expressions, carefully weighed, were considered necessary where none but great and honest acts and intentions existed. Besides, it is clear that, in passing this resolution, no unjust coercion was intended, or could possibly have been applied, because those only could claim bounty who were entitled to a return passage, if they preferred it; therefore, if they objected to reindenture themselves they would have received back passage,—nay more, instances have occurred in which parties who had actually received the bounty have been allowed to return it, and select their return passage after all. There could be no hardship or injustice in expecting, or even "compelling" the indenturing Coolies to come under the same obligations as newly-arriving Coolies, since the former must be much better qualified to act for themselves than the latter; and this construction has been recognized by Her Majesty's Government, when, upon the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, it allowed the bounty for reindenturing to be drawn from the same fund as the passage money of the new Coolies, namely, the guaranteed loan.

The Coolies, as has been already fully explained to his Grace, are after five years' residence in this colony not ignorant or easily imposed upon; they are more intelligent and more independent in their bearing than Africans, and to impose on them the obligations of a contract without their knowledge, or without their consent, is simply impossible.

These explanations they trust will induce his Grace to put a more generous construction on the acts and intentions of the Legislature of this colony than, according to his Grace's Despatch, the Ordinance seems to imply, *or to bear on its face;* and they hope that the whole of this their representation and the propositions they make may be adopted and forwarded by your Honourable Court, and that they will be considered in the same spirit as expressed in his Grace's last Despatch.

(Signed) A. D. Vander Gon Netscher.
Thos. Porter, Jun.
John Jones.

Demerara, March 6, 1854.

No. 3.

BRITISH GUIANA.
No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WALKER to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 38.)

Government House, Demerara,
March 11, 1854.
(Received April 1, 1854.)
(Answered, No. 41, June 12, 1854, page 40.)

MY LORD DUKE,

WITH reference to the subject of your Grace's Despatch, No. 183,* of the 2nd February, and its enclosure, I have the honour to state that it is not practicable to lay it before the Court of Policy and to obtain their opinion upon it in time for transmission by this mail.

* Page 9.

But the Immigration Correspondence Commissioners having had the question of emigration from China and its prospects before them by a direct communication from Mr. White, had prepared a report which was submitted to the Combined Court, and formally adopted on the 9th instant: I have therefore the honour to forward that document, in accordance with the resolution of the Court, and trust that it may be found to afford to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners the information they require.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. WALKER.

Enclosure 1 in No. 3.

Encl. 1 in No. 3.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, combined with the Financial Representatives of the Inhabitants of the said Colony, at its Annual Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Thursday, 9th March 1854.

The Honourable Mr. Vander Gon Netscher, as one of the Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence, lays over the following Report.

F. I.

The Honourable Member then moved that application should be made for not less than 2,000 Chinese, exclusive of the deficiency of the 1,500 already ordered; also for not less than 10,000 Coolies for the coming season.

Seconded by Mr. Watson, and agreed to.

True Extract.
(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Secretary.

Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

Encl. 2 in No. 3.

SIR,

Guiana Public Buildings, March 9, 1854.

HAVING taken into consideration the various documents referred to us by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor relating to emigration from India and China, we have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency and the Honourable the Court of Policy, that from the papers thus placed before us we can draw no other conclusion than that the number of Coolies from India this season will be considerably below the number ordered.

His Excellency is aware that as yet but three vessels have arrived, bringing 909½ adults; and as the remaining vessels chartered by the Land and Emigration Commissioners are of the aggregate tonnage of 2,406 tons, and calculated but for 900 immigrants, it is evident that the total introduction from Calcutta this season will not exceed 1,809½, showing a deficiency of 690½ Coolies on the special order for this season of 2,500, exclusive of the arrears of former years.

Harkaway -	339½
Mary Harrison - -	278
Clifton - -	292
	909½

From the 3rd paragraph of the Land and Emigration Commissioners' letter of the 18th November 1853 to the Colonial Office, it appears that they were under the impression that British Guiana had been furnished with the full number of Coolies ordered.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

We have no means of ascertaining of what nature were the instructions issued by the Secretary of State; but on reference to the Minutes of the Court of Policy and Combined Court we find that 47,500 Coolies (see resolution as per margin) have been ordered, whilst the number received to date has only reached 17,324.

Sub-Encl. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Even after addition of the 900 estimated to arrive this season, the deficiency will therefore be 29,276.

Under these circumstances we cannot but urge most earnestly on His Excellency and the Honourable Court the necessity of pressing on Her Majesty's Government the propriety of taking immediate measures for securing tonnage in England and India for 10,000 Coolies for the ensuing season as a proportion of the arrears of former years.

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In urging that immediate measures should be taken for securing tonnage we would respectfully point out to his Excellency and the Honourable Court that if the advertisements are only issued on the near approach of the season for leaving India, the wants of the colony may as heretofore be left unprovided.

With reference to Chinese immigration, we regret to observe from Mr. White's letter of the 25th November 1853, from Canton, that the prospects of the season are very gloomy.

Sub-Enclosure 7.

This is to us a severe disappointment, as looking to the Minutes of the Court of Policy so far back as October the 14th, 1851, we find that the sum of 50,000*l.*, then specially placed at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government for the importation of Chinese, has been left totally inoperative, not a single immigrant of this class having been introduced through the instrumentality of the Land and Emigration Commissioners.

His Excellency and the Honourable Court are aware that to the Proclamation of Sir Henry Barkly, offering a bounty of $100 per head, we are indebted for the 647 hitherto received, and as the bounty was reduced to $80 and subsequently abolished (not because it was considered exorbitant), but in consequence of an anxious desire to place all emigrants from China under the special control of an agent sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, we cannot but express great regret that the arrangements made by that agent, Mr. White, with Messrs. Hyde, Hodge, & Co. for the supply of shipping at $96 per head should, although sanctioned by the Land and Emigration Commissioners and Sir Henry Barkly, have been rejected by the Colonial Office on the plea that tenders had not been called for.

Taking into consideration that ships from China bring no cargo to the West Indies, whilst from India they can be filled with rice at from 3*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* per ton, and that the "Sandford" has been engaged at 14*l.* per head from Calcutta, we are of opinion that the charge of $96 per head was moderate, and that the arrangements having been sanctioned by the Land and Emigration Commissioners, who had the means of forming correct opinions on such a subject, and by Sir Henry Barkly and Mr. White, both enjoying the confidence of the colonists, should have been confirmed by the Colonial Office.

His Excellency and the Honourable Court are so fully aware of the value of the Chinese as labourers in the colony that it is unnecessary for us to bring forward any arguments in support of the position. Suffice it to us to state that the colony could employ with advantage 10,000 Chinese, exclusive of the regular supply of Indian labourers. His Grace the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in his Despatch of the 12th of January 1854, announces to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor that an entire stop has been put to African emigration except from Sierra Leone; and although this must also be felt as a serious disappointment by our fellow colonists, limited as our orders from the East were in consequence of the expectations raised from this source, when the advantages to be derived by the Africans had been fully made known, we have some satisfaction in the admission of His Grace that the emigration from Africa has been conducted to his satisfaction, and that its discontinuance is only to be attributed to the abuses which may arise at places not under British control.

We need hardly point out to His Excellency and the Honourable Court that upon a large influx of labour the prosperity of the Colony depends. That to this source alone we can look for any increase of our exports. That if denied or withheld, the exertions of the planters must be paralysed, our staples diminished, and the very existence of the Colony perilled.

Holding these views in conjunction with our fellow colonists generally we feel bound to press most urgently upon His Excellency and the Honourable the Court of Policy that not less than 2,000 Chinese, exclusive of the deficiency on the 1,500 already ordered, and if possible 10,000 Coolies, should be ordered for the coming season.

We have, &c.

(Signed) Peter Rose, Chairman.
A. D. Vander Gon Netscher.
Thomas Porter, Jun.
John Jones.
J. Gardiner Austin.
Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence.

Sub-Encl. 1 to Encl. 2 in No. 3.

Sub-Enclosure 1 to Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

Extract from the Minutes of the Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence, at their Meeting, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, on Thursday the 19th of May 1853.

Section 16. That His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to order 2,500 Calcutta Coolies for the season of 1853–54, exclusive of the deficiency of the present year, with as large a proportion of females as possible.

A true Extract.

(Signed) J. Gardiner Austin,
Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure 2 to Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

Sub-Encl. 2 to Encl. 2 in No. 3.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, at its adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, 14th May 1846.

[After Prayers.]

The following resolution was moved by the Honourable Mr. Rose, and seconded by the Honourable Mr. Stuart:

"That this Court having reason to believe that the requisition of Her Majesty's "Secretary of State for the Colonies on the emigration agents in India, for Coolie labourers "for British Guiana, has been limited to 5,000, now most respectfully and earnestly "renew their request to the Secretary of State to issue the necessary directions for the "immediate conveyance to British Guiana of the additional supply of 5,000 Coolie "labourers, the demand for whose labour was notified by this Court to Downing Street "on the 16th of September 1845. And this Court, in addition to the foregoing 10,000 "Coolies, further request a fresh supply may be supplied in the present year of 5,000 "more Coolies, which was declared *nem. con.* to be adopted."

A true Extract.

(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure 3 to Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

Sub-Encl. 3 to Encl. 2 in No. 3.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, at its adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, 21st January 1847.

[After Prayers.]

The Honourable Mr. Stuart moves, with the sanction of His Excellency the Governor, the following resolution, viz.,—

"That this Court respectfully request His Excellency the Governor to apply to the "Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies for authority for the convey-"ance of 'ten thousand Coolies' from India, exclusive of the number for which engage-"ments have already been entered into, so that they may leave India between the 1st of "September 1847 and March 1848; the above to be introduced under the regulations "proposed by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, at present in force in the "Island of Mauritius, for which an Ordinance is now before the Court."

A true Extract.

(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure 4 to Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

Sub-Encl. 4 to Encl. 2 in No. 3.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, at its adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, April 6, 1847.

[After Prayers.]

The Honourable Mr. Rose then moved the following resolution, which, having been seconded, was unanimously agreed to.

Resolved,—That this colony has derived great benefit from the introduction of Coolies from India, and the pressing wants of the colony for a supply of agricultural labourers is much felt, and that at least 10,000 Coolies for the ensuing season will be required to enable the planters to reap their crops. That a number of the Coolies imported are of a description not suited for agricultural labour, some being beggars by profession in India, and many of an advanced age, totally unable to do any kind of work. That the agents at Calcutta and Madras should be instructed to be more particular in selecting the immigrants, as many of them forwarded during the years 1846 and 1847 have been a burthen on the colony, in consequence of their inability to perform any description of labour, thus entailing a heavy expense on the colony for persons who never ought to have been sent from India.

That his Excellency the Governor be most respectfully requested to impress on the Right Honourable Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies the great demand for labour in the colony, and the anxious desire of the colonists to receive a

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supply of 10,000 Coolies from India during the ensuing season, in addition to those expected this present season under Lord Grey's regulations.

A true Extract.
(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Secretary.

Sub-Encl. 5 to Encl. 2 in No. 3.

Sub-Enclosure 5 to Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, combined with the Financial Representatives of the Inhabitants of the said Colony, at its Annual Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Wednesday, January 23, 1850.

Mr. Croal moves the resolution in regard to the resumption of immigration of which he gave notice yesterday; the Honourable A. D. V. G. Netscher seconds.

Resolved,—1. That the present distressed state of the agricultural interests of British Guiana are greatly aggravated by the want of continuous labour.

2. That to mitigate the present distress as much as possible it is necessary that a large influx of immigrants into the colony should take place without delay.

3. That judging from the past, it is the opinion of this Court that the only place from which a sufficient supply of immigrants can be procured in time is from the East Indies.

4. That his Excellency the Governor be requested to apply to the Right Honourable Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies to authorize the exportation of "ten thousand Coolies" from Calcutta into British Guiana under proper arrangements, and that the Loan Commissioners be authorized to raise money to defray the expenses incidental to the importation of a number not exceeding "ten thousand immigrants," provided they can negotiate with Her Majesty's Government to advance the money at par on the bonds of the colony.

5. That a scheme of regulations be proposed by the Commissioners of Immigration, in respect to the services of the Coolies and nature of contracts, to be submitted to his Excellency the Governor and Court of Policy for their approval, with a request that the same may be transmitted to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State; but in such regulations no stipulations shall be made for providing the immigrant with a return passage at the expense of the colony.

6. That parties requiring the services of such immigrants shall send in their applications by a specified time, and shall also engage to pay back to the colony one half of the passage money; and all such parties as have Coolie immigrants now under indentures on their estates shall have a preference of supply from the new importations, to the extent at least of the number who may actually leave the colony by claiming the return passage.

Mr. O'Donoghue moves the following amendment; Mr. Croal seconds:—

That instead of one half, the words "such portion not exceeding one half as may be hereafter decided by this Court," be substituted as the amount to be paid by the parties receiving such immigrants.

A true Extract.
(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Secretary.

Sub-Encl. 6 to Encl. 2 in No. 3.

Sub-Enclosure 6 to Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, combined with the Financial Representatives of the Inhabitants of the said Colony, at its Annual Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, 4th March 1853.

The financial representative Dr. Henry moves, seconded by the Honourable Thomas Porter,

That his Excellency the Governor be requested to give the necessary instructions for the introduction into this colony of 2,500 Calcutta Coolies with the least possible delay, and that he further be requested to send as large a proportion of females as can be procured; at the same time endeavouring to prevail on the East India Company to extend the term of engagement from five to eight years.

Moved by the Honourable A. D. V. Gon Netscher, seconded by the Honourable John Croal,

That his Excellency the Governor be requested to move the Secretary for the Colonies to take the necessary steps in order to ascertain whether the Dutch Government will allow the emigration of Chinese or half-bred Chinese from Java, to the amount of 3,000

per annum, two-thirds males, and one-third females. The voyage from Java being one-half of that from Amoy, and the climate of the island the same as that of this colony, consequently the people are better adapted for our purposes; but in the meantime that Mr. White be authorized to take steps for the introduction of 1,500 Chinese from China.

(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure 7 to Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

Sub-Encl. 7 to Encl. 2 in No. 3.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, at its adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Tuesday, 14th October 1851.

[After Prayers.]

On the motion of the Honourable Mr. Roe, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Quayle, it was

Resolved, 1st.—That it is the opinion of this Court that the sum of fifty thousand pounds sterling, a part of the parliamentary loan of two hundred and fifty thousand pounds, should be applied to the introduction of Chinese immigrants.

2d.—That this Court requests his Excellency the Governor will be pleased to take the necessary steps for obtaining the sanction of Her Majesty's Government for the introduction of Chinese immigrants into this colony.

A true Extract.

(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Secretary.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 4.)

Government House, Georgetown,
April 9, 1854.
(Received May 1, 1854.)
(Answered, No. 35, May 31, 1854, page 32.)

MY LORD DUKE,

1. I HAVE had the honour of receiving by this mail your Grace's Despatch, No. 4, of the 10th ultimo, forwarding a draft Immigration Act, intended to embody those modifications of the existing law which Her Majesty's Government desire to see enacted.

2. I have been able at present only to glance hastily through the several sections of the bill, but I think I ought not to omit informing your Grace that, as I now read it, your proposal that a Coolie should not be entitled to a return passage until after payment of 35 dollars in aid of the expense of it has been altogether omitted.

3. It appears that the 17th section of the draft grants the privilege of commuting labour for payment of 5*l.* at the end of three years; and the 18th section grants the same at the end of four years for payment of 2*l.* 10*s.*

The 20th section authorizes an immigrant who may have complied with the 17th and 18th to demand a passport; and the 23rd entitles him, on production of his passport at the end of ten years' residence, to demand a passage home at the expense of the Colony. Nothing is here said of any contribution by the immigrant.

4. It is possible that when I have leisure for a more careful examination of the draft I may elsewhere discover some provision for carrying out that part of your Grace's proposed arrangement which I now think to have been omitted; but if not, I conclude that I shall have your assent to my withholding altogether from the knowledge of any one the fact that this bill has been sent out.

5. I own that I should have been well pleased to have found a new immigration bill passed by the Court of Policy before my arrival, both because they have already transmitted to your Grace the modifications of your proposals, to which they hope to obtain your assent; and also because, from accidental

BRITISH GUIANA.

circumstances, the new bill will have to be brought before the Court immediately after the election of four new members.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to His Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

Government House, Georgetown,
April 22, 1854.

(No. 5.)

(Received May 18, 1854.)

MY LORD DUKE, (Answered, No. 8, June 26, 1854, page 50.)

I HAVE now the honour of acknowledging your Grace's Despatch, No. 5,* of the 16th ultimo, transmitting a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with their account, and desiring me to inform you at an early date from what sources it is proposed that immigration to this colony shall be defrayed for the future.

* Page 17.

2. I lost no time, upon the receipt of these very important instructions, in making myself acquainted with the substance of the communications which had been recently addressed to you by the Lieut.-Governor in connexion with the subject, and in ascertaining how far the information necessary for your guidance had been transmitted before my arrival in the colony; and I found that Mr. Walker, with his Despatch No. 35, of the 10th March last, forwarded a resolution of the Combined Court, to the effect that application should be made for upwards of 2,000 Chinese, as well as for 10,000 Coolies, for the ensuing season. This was, however, accompanied with no information as to the provision of funds, as at that time the Combined Court had not arrived at the discussion of the ways and means for the year.

4. On the 22d March, however, the report of the Committee, of which I enclose a copy, was adopted by the Combined Court in the usual form, and on the same day a Tax Ordinance, also enclosed, was passed for the purpose of raising the necessary revenue.

5. My first step, upon the receipt of your Grace's Despatch, was to refer the letter and account of the Land and Emigration Commissioners for the examination of the Financial Accountant of the colony, in order that it might be ascertained how far the calculations of the Commissioners were correct in respect to the balance of the Parliamentary guaranteed loan, which would be available for the operations of 1854–55.

Mr. Pollard's report is herewith forwarded, which has been framed with his usual care; and it will be seen that for the reasons stated he has come to the conclusion that there will be a balance of about 40,000*l.* instead of 20,000*l.*, thus available for next year.

Five thousand pounds of the additional sum calculated upon by Mr. Pollard is, it will be seen, the amount charged by the Commissioners for back passages, which it has been decided ought not to be paid out of the Parliamentary guaranteed loan, and to meet which the colony now has a corresponding amount lying in the hands of the old Loan Commissioners. I have written by this mail to request those gentlemen to pay over to the Land and Emigration Board the sum of 2,262*l.* on account of the payment for the "Thetis." The balance will remain to meet the payment for the "Sandford."

6. The state of affairs disclosed in the letter of the Land and Emigration Commissioners, coupled with the repeated resolutions passed by this Legislature, to the effect that they would contract no farther debt for purposes of immigration, were sufficient at once to satisfy me that a very important crisis had arrived in the affairs of this colony, and that the time was come when it was absolutely necessary for the Government to consider carefully the liabilities under which they had come for past transactions, and to determine how they could best provide for their discharge, as well as for the future advancement of the prosperity of the colony. With this view I read yesterday to the Court of Policy the Minute herewith enclosed, to which I trust that your Grace will not

Enclosure.

see any reason to object. As might have been expected, the members of the Court were unwilling to come to any conclusion upon it without time for consideration, more especially as two new members, elected that day, had not taken their seats. I cannot, therefore, by this mail make you acquainted with the views of the Court, but I hope that before the departure of the next packet some satisfactory decision will have been come to. Neither do I send the draft of the Immigration Bill alluded to in my Minute, as in its present imperfect condition no benefit could be derived from troubling your Grace with its perusal.

7. There are, however, certain passages in the letter of the Land and Emigration Commissioners to your Grace which I cannot but regard with much anxiety, and with respect to which I would gladly be favoured with further instructions.

These gentlemen say:—"We do not know how far the Duke of Newcastle "would consider himself at liberty thus to bind the general revenue of British "Guiana."—"We do not therefore ourselves see any alternative but that of "limiting our engagements to the amount actually in our hands, nor will any "material inconvenience arise from this course, as the earlier ships, if obtained "in England, may be taken up for Jamaica, in respect of which colony ample "funds are available."

And again, "that no further liabilities will be incurred in England, or "authorized in India or China, till provision shall be made to the satisfaction "of the Secretary of State for their liquidation."

8.—It will be seen that in the Minute to which I have alluded I have refrained from expressing any opinion as to the force to be attached to these passages; but I have little hope of being able to keep silence respecting them through the discussions which must shortly take place. The point which is left in doubt, and which it is for your Grace alone to decide, is whether it is to be insisted on that no ships shall be engaged nor immigrants ordered for this colony, unless the funds required for the cost shall be previously deposited with the Commissioners. If such be the intention it cannot be denied that the arrangement will press very heavily upon the colony; and that it will in point of fact operate to bring about a suspension of immigration or to force the Legislature into contracting further loans, in opposition to the wishes and judgment of the majority of the colonists.

9.—I trust, however, that your Grace will, so far as lies in your power, give due weight to the facts that British Guiana has never hitherto failed to meet its engagements, and that, with reference to the regulations respecting immigration laid down by Her Majesty's Government, she is prevented from making engagements on her own credit with private parties, and is compelled to have recourse to the Land and Emigration Board. Your Grace can be furnished this year and in ensuing years with full authority "to bind the general revenue of "British Guiana" to the extent required. And it will be my duty to keep you at all times fully informed of the prospects of the revenue, as well as to prevent any undue demands for immigrants, or the accumulation of engagements.

10.—Under such circumstances I cannot but hope that Her Majesty's Government, which has shown so liberal a disposition to assist Jamaica at considerable risk in her present condition, will not refuse to lend its credit indirectly to the limited extent only involved in sanctioning engagements of ships for immigrants to a colony which has a fair prospect of being among the first to prove to the world at large that the cultivation of sugar by free labour can be carried on in competition with slavery.

After all the sacrifices which England has made and is still making for the establishment of this principle, what I am now asking can scarcely be held unreasonable. And, therefore, if in the course of the coming discussions I am forced to express an opinion on this point, I shall venture, while disclaiming any authority so to do, to anticipate a favourable decision upon it, and shall look anxiously for your Grace's approval.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

P.S.—April 25th.—Since the above was written I have received your Grace's Despatch, No. 6,* of the 17th ultimo, enclosing copies of correspondence with

* Page 19.

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the immigration agent in China, relative to the present condition and prospects of immigration into the West Indies from that country.

These papers shall be at once laid before the Court of Policy, and they will I think afford additional proof of the necessity for a careful examination of the advantages and drawbacks inseparable from operations in China, and to which I have already in my Minute drawn the attention of the Court.

Encl. in No. 5.

Enclosure in No. 5.

MINUTE.

IT now becomes my duty to inform this Honourable Court of my having received by the last mail a despatch from the Secretary of State, with which his Grace has transmitted a letter of the 9th March from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, forwarding their account with this colony up to the 31st December last, and in which, while expressing his concurrence in the views of those gentlemen, he has directed me to inform him, without delay, from what sources it is proposed that the cost of immigration, of such extent and nature as may be desired by this colony, shall be defrayed for the future.

The letter of the Commissioners I now lay before you with their account. You will perceive that the former is founded upon a very able report drawn up here on the 30th November last by the financial accountant, which was laid before the Combined Court during their last session, and of which the Secretary of State has expressed his high approval. A report from the same officer upon the account now received is also submitted to you.

From these papers it will be seen that there remains available for the operations of what is usually termed the immigration season of 1854-55, as the balance of the Parliamentary guaranteed loan, 96,000 dollars, according to the calculation of the Commissioners, or about double that amount, according to that of Mr. Pollard.

The latter will, I hope, prove to be correct; but be that as it may, the Parliamentary guaranteed loan may, with reference to future operations, be considered as exhausted, and we must determine how we are to proceed hereafter without the aid of any such fund. Indeed, the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners state, that the Governor "should be informed that liabilities will probably be incurred in April or May, in respect "of Chinese immigration, to the extent of the funds which may now turn out tobe in "our (their) hands; but that no further liabilities will be incurred in England, or autho-"rized in India or China, till provision shall be made to the satisfaction of the Secretary "of State for their liquidation." The Duke of Newcastle adopts this proposal.

By the receipt of this communication we are compelled, if indeed the necessity had not otherwise arisen, now to consider how we can best establish, upon a new financial footing, a permanent system of immigration into this colony; and our proceedings will probably be greatly facilitated by our keeping steadily in view what may fairly be termed certain established facts, viz.:—

1st. That it is essential to the prosperity of this colony that a yearly stream of immigration be continued.

2nd. That it has been determined that no additional public debt shall be contracted for this purpose, but that the annual expenditure shall be defrayed out of the annual resources, including therein the payment by individual employers of half of the cost of the introduction of the immigrants.

3rd. That we must now satisfy Her Majesty's Government and the community of our full intention and ability to provide, upon the last-mentioned principle, for the liquidation of the liabilities already incurred, and of the engagements to be entered into from year to year.

The task which immediately devolves upon this Court, and which will, indeed, admit of no delay, is that of determining in what manner they can best give effect, in communication with the Secretary of State, to the scheme of expenditure for the coming season, for which provision was made during the last session of the Combined Court. But I do not think that this Court can satisfactorily and soundly discharge this duty, without a full knowledge and consideration of the existing liabilities of the colony, and the effect which they must have upon our future operations.

The first class of liabilities are those which are fixed in their nature and amount, viz., the Interest and Sinking Fund for the old Immigration Loan and the Parliamentary Guaranteed Loan, amounting to about 139,000 dollars per annum.

The next class are those which are of variable amount, as being liable to the contingency of death, as well as to the uncertainty of election by the immigrant between taking his back passage or accepting a money payment on condition of postponing it.

These liabilities ought, however, to be stated at not less than the following sums, viz.:—

1854—Bounty in course of payment	131,000
1856—Passage for 2,210 Coolies re-indentured in 1851, and 517 new Coolies, of 1851	183,254
1857—Passage for 1,558 Coolies re-indentured in 1852, and 2,779 new Coolies, of 1852	291,360
1858—Passage for 2,021 Coolies re-indentured in 1853	134,360
1859—Passage for 3,396 Coolies re-indentured in 1854	228,000
	$967,974

Giving an average of 161,329 dollars for the six years, 1854 to 1859, inclusive.

The annual liabilities, therefore, for which this colony ought to provide, up to the close of 1859, will amount to 300,329 dollars.

Such being the undeniable amount of our existing liabilities, and the success of our future operations having become altogether dependent upon our being able to satisfy higher authorities not only of our desire, but of our ability to meet any engagements as they may fall due, it is my earnest hope that this Court will, in dealing with the immediate question before it, restrict their application for immigrants to such number as can, beyond all doubt, be provided for.

It appears that on the 9th March last the Combined Court, having had under their consideration a Report of the same date from the Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence, passed a resolution that application should be made to Her Majesty's Government for not less than 2,000 Chinese, exclusive of the deficiency of those already ordered, and also for not less than 10,000 Coolies for the ensuing season; and this resolution was forwarded to the Secretary of State by the Lieutenant-Governor. No discussion, however, then took place with respect to the provision of funds; and it is to be inferred from the report of the Committee of Ways and Means, dated the 22nd of the same month, that the Court soon arrived at the conclusion that it was beyond the power of the colony to provide for immigration on so great a scale as had been first proposed. For practical purposes, therefore, we may turn our attention to the reduced scheme, developed in the report of the Committee of Ways and Means. That report anticipated the realization for immigration purposes of the following sums:—

Cash balance	36,379
Old Contract Dues and Notes of Hand	17,200
Payments on re-indentures	7,500
Half bounty	55,000
Produce export tax	38,000
Rum duties	120,000
And after providing for the bounties now in course of payment to those Coolies who are willing to postpone their right to a back passage, and to come under engagements for a further industrial residence, they estimate there will be a balance of the Parliamentary Guaranteed Loan of about	96,000
Total	$370,079

The Report of the Committee of Ways and Means does not give the data upon which the estimate of immigration expenditure was framed; but if we divide the 6,000 labourers for whose introduction they proposed to provide in such manner as I have been informed was contemplated by them, we shall have the following result:—

2,500 Coolies, at 14*l.*	$168,000
1,000 Chinese, at 24*l.*	115,200
2,500 Portuguese, at 6*l.*	57,600
	$340,800
Expenses in the colony and elsewhere	26,400
	$367,200

There remains to be added the amount already paid out and to be paid in the course of the present year for back passage or bonus in lieu.

For this service 51,000 dollars have been advanced, and there still remain, according to the records of the Immigration Agent-General's Office, 2,750 Coolies, whose claims will have to be disposed of. It may, however, be safely assumed that 750 of these will not, from various causes, make their appearance, and we may, perhaps, go so far as to calculate that for the remaining 2,000 the expense will not exceed the bonus, which, at the average rate of 40 dollars each, will amount to 80,000 dollars, or 131,000 dollars in all. This added to the above-mentioned sum of 367,200 dollars, will give 498,200 dollars as the whole expenditure of the year, and will be in excess of the Ways and Means provided to the amount of 28,000 dollars. To that extent, therefore, at least, we are bound to reduce our

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application to the Home Government for immigrants for the year 1854-55; and that reduction, it would appear, must be made upon the numbers of Coolies or of Portuguese, inasmuch as the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners have intimated in their letter their intention to appropriate the funds in their hands for Chinese emigration. At the same time, however, we ought to take this opportunity of weighing deliberately the advantages and disadvantages of Chinese immigration. Admitting, for the sake of argument, certain high qualities of the Chinese, and the advantage of our being free from any pledge to provide them with a passage back to their own country, it cannot, nevertheless, be denied that the first cost of their introduction is very heavy. But there is another objection to their continued importation, which, unless the system can be changed, is, in my view, almost insuperable, viz., the fact of their being accompanied by no females of their own race. The evils inseparable from this circumstance must be ultimately so great, that I should be most unwilling to become a party to measures from which they must inevitably result. It is not, perhaps, impossible that this difficulty might be overcome by paying a premium to married people offering themselves for shipment in China; but here again the question of additional expense arises, and we must, before recommending the Combined Court to sanction further outlay, even for so desirable an object, inquire anxiously into our present ability to incur further charges.

The facts which have now been brought before you must be sufficient to convince any one that it is only by the exercise of the strictest economy and careful supervision of every branch of the public service; by the zealous and judicious discharge of their duties by the public servants; and in a no less degree by the energy, industry, and public spirit of the proprietors of estates and employers of labour—that it is only by all these means that this colony can hope to discharge its heavy liabilities, and at the same time provide for the gradual but uninterrupted development of its great natural resources. And as it cannot but be satisfactory both to Her Majesty's Government and to the community in general, that the arrangement now to be made with regard to finance should, if possible, be accompanied with a settlement of the law by which the whole system of immigration and the employment of immigrant labour is for the future to be regulated, there will, in the course of the day, be placed in the hands of Honourable Members the draft of a bill framed for that purpose. It will necessarily be in an imperfect state, but will suffice to develope the plan upon which it is proposed to legislate; and I trust that after having been carefully discussed and amended by this Court, it will be found calculated to remedy some of the evils now represented to exist, and to place the mutual relations of all parties interested upon an equitable and beneficial footing.

The preparation of this bill has been greatly facilitated by the fact of an agreement having been come to between Her Majesty's Government and the representatives of this colony, in respect to certain important points in dispute, as well as by its having been determined in what manner the expense shall be divided between the public chest and the individual employers of labour. These proposals have been strictly embodied in the bill.

An endeavour has at the same time been made to arrange the several sections in chronological order, with reference to the several events to be governed by them.

The first clauses, therefore, relate to transactions beyond the colony for the procuring of immigrants. Then follow those regulating the payment of passage money or bounty on their arrival; the appointment of the Immigration Agent-General; the terms upon which the several classes of immigrants are to be indentured; the mode in which they are to be located, and the manner in which the employer is to pay for those assigned to him; the system under which they are to be managed during indenture; provision for payment of bonus for renewal of service; and, lastly, the regulation of back passages.

There are only two points upon which I now wish to trouble you with any remarks.

First—The colony has consented to adopt the proposal of the Duke of Newcastle, that Coolies imported for ten years should, at the expiration of five years, be freed from obligation to labour, and should, in consideration of that indulgence, pay thirty-five dollars in aid of the expense of a back passage. But a provision has been introduced into the draft bill, to the effect, that any Coolie voluntarily entering into indenture for any year after the expiration of the fifth year, shall be relieved to the extent of one-fifth of the sum he would otherwise be required to pay for his back passage, and that, as a necessary consequence, the employer of such Coolie shall pay to the Immigration Agent-General the sum of seven dollars for the year. I can anticipate no objection to this proposal. The great object is to secure the largest amount of useful labour, and it will scarcely be denied that the labourer who thus voluntarily adheres to systematic contracts will be found in all respects the most industrious and most valuable.

The other point has reference to the prevention of desertion, and the correction of disorderly habits in the immigrants, as well as the securing of an adequate return for the great outlay necessarily incurred.

The provisions which exist in the laws now in force, and other circumstances, sufficiently demonstrate that Her Majesty's Government are fully alive to the necessity of legislation with this view; and it may, therefore, be fairly assumed, that if the colony has, up to this time, failed in securing these objects, the cause is to be found in some degree in the defects of the law, and in the shortcomings of those most immediately interested in preserving order. Penalties have been imposed on labourers deserting, as well as on parties harbour-

ing or employing deserters, but there seems reason to believe that those penalties are not regularly enforced, and that, owing to the scarcity of labour and consequent competition, those who are in charge of estates take little or no pains to ascertain the real condition of the labourers who offer themselves for employment. If such is the system pursued by employers, we can hardly expect that by any exertion on the part of the magistrates a proper control can be maintained over the immigrants. I am not without hope that a remedy may, to a considerable extent, be found in taking advantage of the great variety of race in the population, as well as of the large police force, by giving to the people at large a direct pecuniary interest in checking irregularity.

With this view, the bill proposes to make it an offence on the part of a manager to omit giving notice of a desertion to the magistrate. It requires that officer immediately to publish the same, and to transmit copies to the other magistrates for like publication. It retains the penalties upon persons harbouring or employing deserters as well as upon deserters themselves; and it grants one half of all penalties to the parties upon whose information the offenders may be convicted.

In conclusion, I have only to add, that it is proposed that the bill shall neither be brought into operation nor published until it shall have received Her Majesty's confirmation.

(Signed) P. E. Wodehouse.

April 21, 1854.

No. 6.

No. 6.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 15.)

Government House, Georgetown,
May 9, 1854.
(Received June 5, 1854.)
(Answered, No. 17, July 25, 1854, p. 52.)

My Lord Duke,

With my Despatch No. 5,* of the 22d ult., I transmitted to your Grace the Minute which I had submitted to the Court of Policy, with the object of obtaining the information required by you in your Despatch No. 5,† of the 16th March last, relative to the provision proposed to be made by this Colony for the future maintenance of a system of immigration.

* Page 152.

† Page 17.

2.—The engagements of some of the members and the illness of others, have prevented the Court from taking up the consideration of this important subject until yesterday; and even then they were by no means prepared to enter fully into all the matters which it was the object of my Minute to bring under their notice. They were, however, quite alive to the necessity for no longer leaving your Grace in ignorance of the manner in which it was proposed to provide funds for obtaining further supplies of immigrants. And I have now the honour of enclosing the extracts of their proceedings.

Enclosure 1.

3.—The first expresses, as I think your Grace will have been prepared to expect, the desire of the Colony to discontinue, for the present at least, the introduction of immigrants from China, as being far too expensive for the present circumstances of the Colony. And in intimating this desire, they have signified their entire readiness to bear their proper share of the expense of any engagements already entered into, whether for the freight of Chinese or for the remuneration of the immigration agent, Mr. White.

Enclosure 2.

4.—I confess, for my own part, that there are various circumstances, independent of the expense, which prevent my looking hopefully upon immigration from China to this Colony. No one denies that unless the females can be induced to come, it cannot be continued. This object is to be attained only by paying for them; and although it would in point of fact amount to nothing more than providing for the husband the marriage portion which he must under any circumstances pay, such a transaction would nevertheless be at all times liable to the charge, no matter how unfounded, of its being neither more nor less than a traffic in Chinese females. The great competition to be encountered with the emigration to California and Australia, must also be very disadvantageous. Besides which there is the fact of the organized export of Chinese to Cuba. While the latter prospers it will, from the comparative freedom from restriction under which it is conducted, be attended with less expense than our own; while, on the other hand, if the Cuban experiment leads eventually to disturbances and other evil consequences in that island (a contingency of no improbable occurrence), the unpopularity of the Cuban transactions will undoubtedly tend to check Chinese emigration to the West Indies generally.

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5.—The emigration from India, on the contrary, is entirely under the control of Her Majesty's Government and of the East India Company, neither of whom, it may be presumed, would give their sanction to the export of British Indian subjects to foreign countries, in which it would be impossible to enforce the observance of any laws for their protection. And I cannot but think, therefore, that it will be sound policy for this Colony to devote by far the greater portion of the funds at its disposal to the support of immigration from India, in which field they will have to encounter the rivalry of Her Majesty's other colonial possessions alone. With these opinions, I have much satisfaction in supporting the resolution of the Court of Policy which asks your Grace to apply all the funds available in the hands of the Land and Emigration Commissioners, or which will without doubt be provided in the course of the year, for the introduction of Indian immigrants upon the best terms practicable.

6.—In conclusion, I have to call attention to the hope expressed by the Court, that Her Majesty's Government will not insist upon our funds being provided in advance. Upon that point I addressed your Grace in my Despatch No. 5, and I sincerely trust that you will find it in your power to accede to my recommendation. There is here no lack of inclination to meet just liabilities, and your Grace will perhaps be disposed to view my Minute, in which those liabilities were distinctly brought forward, as an earnest of my own desire to check as far as possible any rash engagements.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

Encl. 1 in No. 6.

Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, at its adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Monday, 8th May 1854.

[After Prayers.]

Order of the day,—Honourable Mr. Smith moves in accordance with notice as follows, as regards the discontinuance of Chinese immigration:

Resolved,—That it appears to this Court to be expedient for the present to put a stop to the introduction of Chinese immigrants into the colony, in so far as may be done without violation of any engagements for that object which may have been entered into on behalf of the colony by Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners or their agents, and that his Excellency the Governor be requested to convey instructions of this Court's decision accordingly, and that therefore the engagement with Mr. White be terminated at as early a period as possible.

Seconded by the Honourable John Jones.

The motion being amended by the addition of certain words as to the discontinuance of Mr. White's further services as the colonial agent for immigration from China:

Agreed to.

True Extract.

(Signed) W. WALKER,
Acting Secretary.

Encl. 2 in No. 6.

Enclosure 2 in No. 6.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, at its adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Monday, 8th May 1854.

[After Prayers.]

Honourable John Jones read the reply of the Elective Members of the Court to His Excellency's Minute on the subject of the financial arrangements for future immigration.

Moved by the Honourable J. E. Roney, that the Report be adopted and entered on the minutes, and that His Excellency the Governor be requested to give effect to its recommendations.

Honourable G. J. Luckie seconds.

Agreed to.

True Extract.

(Signed) W. WALKER.
Secretary.

We thank your Excellency for the statement which you have been pleased to submit to us respecting the liabilities of the colony.

With regard to the liabilities for the loan of 1845, and the parliamentary guarantee loan, the colony has hitherto fulfilled its engagements, and will continue to do so.

The next class of liabilities which your Excellency refers to are bounties and back passages, although the sum placed against the year 1854 is the only item that this Court can properly deal with at present. We take leave to observe that the calculations made seem to be based on the assumption that all the Coolies will be entitled to a back passage. We have reason to believe that the number who will claim a back passage will be few.

The next point we have to notice is the means for carrying out the views of the Combined Court in respect to immigration for the seasons 1854 and 1855.

The estimate for immigration by the Combined Court for 6,000 immigrants we consider ample.

In respect to Coolie and Chinese immigration, for which alone the Land and Emigration Commissioners have to enter into engagements, referring to the financial accountant's statement, there will be sufficient funds to meet,—

	£
4,200 Coolies, at 14*l.* - - - - -	58,800
Sum available in Commissioners' hands - - -	40,000
Leaving a balance of - -	18,800

to be remitted from the Colony out of the funds voted by the last Combined Court, reserving sufficient to meet the cost of Portuguese immigration.

Looking at the means of the Colony and the time that the payments will become due (none earlier than 1855), we trust that Her Majesty's Government will not insist on the whole of the money being in England before they authorize emigration from India, especially as the Colony would be losers by the rate of interest they would receive for any funds not absolutely acquired.

The Colony is most anxious to keep faith with its creditors, and has hitherto done so; we therefore trust that your Excellency will urge Her Majesty's Government to order at least 4,200 Coolies from India for the season 1854 and 1855, or as many of that number as, with due consideration of the funds available, and the possibly enhanced rate of conveyance, may be found practicable.

(Signed) JOHN JONES.
JAMES E. RONEY.
ROBERT SMITH.
GEO. JNO. LUCKIE.

No. 7.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to His Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 21.)

Government House, Georgetown,
June 7, 1854.
(Received June 29, 1854.)
(Answered, No. 33, September 13, 1854, p. 54.)

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Grace, for the decision of Her Majesty, an Ordinance passed by the Court of Policy, No. 7, of 1854, entitled "An Ordinance for the amendment and consolidation of the Laws for the encouragement of Immigration, and for the general regulation of Immigrants;" and as this bill has received the most careful consideration at the hands of the Court, who have been actuated by an earnest desire to overcome the impediments which have hitherto stood in the way of any satisfactory settlement of the all-important labour question, it may not be inexpedient for me to offer a few observations upon the general principles and objects of the whole bill, before submitting my remarks upon the several sections in detail.

Vide Appendix No. 1, page 418.

2. After all the correspondence that has passed upon the subject, your Grace will be prepared to find in this enactment provisions which under ordinary circumstances would have been regarded as unduly interfering with the free action of individuals, and as treating of matters which ought to be left to the mutual arrangement of both employers and employed. But the whole scheme of immigrant labour is governed by peculiar contingencies, which render this interference on the part of the Legislature not only expedient but unavoidable.

3. Those contingencies are,

First. The immigrants are imported at a very great expense to the community, and the greater number of them under a stipulation that after certain limited

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terms of service they are to be provided, also at the cost of the colony, with a passage back to their own country.

Secondly. A very great proportion of the cost of these immigrants is defrayed out of the general revenues; and thus the whole community have a direct material interest in the establishment and maintenance of a system calculated to ensure the beneficial employment and control of those for whose services they pay so highly.

Thirdly. The fact that a majority of the estates upon which these immigrants are employed belong to non-resident proprietors, and that therefore it is impossible to trust altogether to considerations of personal advantage, as a guarantee for the maintenance of such a system.

Fourthly. From the first of these causes there arises naturally in the minds of the immediate employers, and perhaps of all classes, a strong desire to obtain from the immigrant what they regard as nothing more than a just return for the heavy outlay attendant on his introduction and his restoration to his own country. The steps which the colonists have taken for the attainment of this end, have at all times, as your Grace has observed, been jealously watched by Her Majesty's Government, acting as the protectors of the immigrants introduced under their authority. But the concessions which have from time to time been made, and the tenor of your Grace's recent Despatches, render it clear that it is no longer considered fair towards the colonists, or even beneficial to the immigrants, to leave the latter so absolute an exercise of their own discretion in respect to employment as was for some time after the commencement of immigration perseveringly advocated.

5. Indeed, looking at the position of the immigrants from an English point of view, many would say in all honesty that it is nothing less than our duty to place them under such regulations as will promote their eventual social improvement, without reference to their own immediate wishes, provided that be done with reason and justice. We hold it to be for the good of a human being that he should be well clothed, well fed, educated, and generally elevated in the moral and social scale. But I own that after a residence of many years in different tropical countries, I should little expect to see anywhere any such progressive improvement of the native population, if it were to be the result of their own free choice alone, or still less of their own continuous, steady labour. Idleness has great charms for all races and in all climes, and we may fairly attribute a very great proportion of the industry and enterprise which characterize our own countrymen (upon which have been founded many of the arguments in favour of the unfettered choice by the labourer of his own mode of life) to the pressure of great want from their earliest years, and the consequent establishment of habits of industry, opposing themselves to the natural tendency to idleness and self-indulgence. In warm and productive countries this pressure upon the labouring population cannot exist. They cannot but be in what an Englishman would consider easy circumstances, and there is consequently very great difficulty in exhibiting to them the prospect of benefits such as they can appreciate, as the probable reward of their own exertions.

6. If therefore we are driven by these various considerations to impose upon the immigrant a necessity for obeying certain fixed rules, calculated to ensure his continuous labour during his period of service, it unavoidably becomes our duty so to legislate between him and his employer as to prevent the exercise of any oppression or unfair control over him, and at the same time to guard the public interests, as far as we may find it practicable, against the improvidence and irregularity of both the contracting parties. No one can be blind to the difficulties of such a task, but the necessity for attempting its accomplishment cannot be denied; and it would be a matter of deep regret to me if it should prove that this bill, upon which so much pains have been bestowed, was not held deserving of the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

7. In the arrangement of the Ordinance regard has been had to the chronological occurrence of events in the career of the immigrant, from the time of his leaving his native country up to that of his return home after the completion of his term of colonial service. With this view the sections have been arranged as follows:—

Section 1 repeals all existing laws.

Sections 2 and 3 provide for expenses incurred out of the colony.

Sections 4 and 5 relate to payment of passage money and bounty.

Sections 6 to 11 provide for the appointment of immigration agents, and define their duties on the arrival of immigrants.

Section 12 regulates applications by employers for immigrants.

Sections 13 to 19 govern the terms of indenture of the several classes of immigrants.

Sections 20 to 23 regulate the allotment of immigrants and the payments by employers to the colonial chest.

Sections 24 to 46 regulate all the transactions between the employer and the immigrant, during the period of service of the latter, whether under indenture or verbal contract, and the issue of certificates of industrial residence.

Sections 49 to 54 regulate the granting of back passages and the payment of money as consideration for the postponement of such passages.

The remaining sections are of a general nature.

8. The first four Sections require no particular explanation.

The 5th takes the place of one bearing the same number in the Ordinance disallowed by Her Majesty; and it will, I hope, be found free from the objections taken by your Grace to that section. The object of the one now proposed is, to facilitate the importation of immigrants by private individuals for their own estates, in the hope that they may be enabled to make better terms than the Government can with the shipowners, as having it in their power to charter the vessels not only from India or China to Demerara, but also from the latter place to England. Every wish has been shown to guard against the abuse of this privilege. The licence of the Government is in the first instance to be obtained. He has the liberty to give or to refuse it at his discretion, as well as to limit the number to be imported under it. The latter provision having been inserted with the view of preventing too large a share of the funds provided for general immigration purposes from being absorbed by the operations of a few individuals. And as, by the 13th section, no contract made out of the colony will be valid without the approval of Her Majesty's Government, the operations under this 5th section will be fully subject to their control.

9. By the 9th section it is declared that shipowners shall receive payment of passage money for all immigrants landed alive. It has been found expedient to remove the limitation, first introduced into the Ordinance of 1853, of making payment for those landed in good health only.

10. The 12th section differs so far from the corresponding provision of the last bill, that it directs parties requiring immigrants to send in new applications after the Ordinance is brought into operation; as well as to renew them annually after the termination of the season of import of immigrants from India.

11. I have now to call your Grace's attention to the sections from 13 to 19 inclusive, which prescribe the periods of service for the several classes of immigrants. In the case of the East Indies the Ordinance follows exactly (see sections 16 and 19) the terms of the arrangement recently agreed to by Her Majesty's Government, viz., that they shall be indentured in the first instance for three years, and at the end of that time be permitted to enter into fresh indentures for two years at once, or into two separate indentures for terms of one year at the end of the third and fourth years, or to pay in commutation the sums of five pounds or two pounds and ten shillings; and in each instance, in the absence of any application for such re-indenture or permission to pay, the previous indenture is to be deemed to be renewed.

In the case of the Portuguese it has by the 16th section been enacted, that the contracts shall be for not less than one nor more than three years. This is only a re-enactment of the Ordinance, No. 13 of 1853, which has received Her Majesty's confirmation. Practically the indentures will all be for one year only, and with that term the colonists will in the case of the Portuguese be satisfied. They are naturally industrious, comparatively speaking, the cost of their passage hither is not great, and they have no claim to be provided with a back passage.

It only remains for me to speak of the Chinese. In the draft of the bill it was proposed to retain in full force the contract for five years, but to give the immigrant the option of changing his employer every year. To this it was strongly objected, and I must say with reason, that it would have the effect of rendering the labourer unsettled, and of little value either to himself or to his employer for the whole term of his service. That he would never acquire any

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comforts or interest in his place of abode for the time being; and would from year to year be enticed away without deriving any sort of advantage from the change. Upon careful consideration of all the circumstances, therefore, it has been decided to place the Chinese immigrant upon exactly the same footing in respect to service as the Indian, viz., to require him to enter into indentures for three years at first, and then for two more joint or separate years, or to pay the commutation. At the same time the party with whom he makes the contract in China remains bound by the 14th section to afford him employment, if he desires it, for the whole period of five years. I fully believe that this arrangement will be beneficial to the Chinese, and trust that your Grace will be prepared to assent to it.

12. The 20th and 21st Sections govern the location of the immigrants upon their arrival in the colony; and they differ from the rules already in force only in so far as they provide greater facilities for the recovery of the sums becoming due to the colony from the employers to whom they are allotted, a matter which has hitherto been attended with much trouble and uncertainty.

13. By the Sections from 24 to 46 inclusive are enacted the whole of the regulations by which it is proposed that the immigrants and their employers shall be governed, during their term of service in the Colony. And it will be right for me to give an explanation of the motive for the introduction of some of them here. It will be within your Grace's recollection, that when the late Governor transmitted for Her Majesty's confirmation the Ordinance, No. 3 of 1853, which was disallowed, he also submitted another Ordinance, No. 2 of the same year, entitled "An Ordinance for regulating the rights, duties, and "relations of employers and servants in the colony of British Guiana," which was confirmed. It was the intention of the Legislature, at the time of passing the two bills, that the immigrants should be brought, like the rest of the population, under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 2, instead of being regulated as before by special enactments. But the repeal of those enactments was effected by Ordinance, No. 3 of 1853. When, therefore, that Ordinance was disallowed, it was held that the immigrants could not be made amenable to Ordinance No. 2, but must fall back upon the old laws.

14. The first question that presented itself was, whether in the bill now under review we should simply declare the provisions of Ordinance, No. 2 of 1853, to be in force, or should embody in this bill the requisite regulations. And upon careful consideration of the whole subject, I took upon myself the responsibility of advising the Court of Policy to take the latter course. In the first place it seemed very desirable, with a view to putting an end to the great confusion and doubts which had existed upon almost every subject connected with immigration, to take the present opportunity of placing clearly and at one view before all parties interested, the whole of the law by which they were in future to be governed. But another very powerful inducement for taking this course lay in the opportunity which it afforded for introducing changes in the law, in my opinion of the highest necessity; changes calculated to check and repress habits of irregularity on the part of the employers, productive of great evil to themselves as well as to the immigrants.

15. It is impossible not to perceive that from the prolonged pressure with which the employers had for many years to contend, while making hopeless efforts to obtain from the Creole population really continuous and systematic labour, they gradually gave up the attempt, and resigned themselves to obtaining so much labour and no more as the Creole thought proper to give, with a very small amount of actual supervision. Under such circumstances it is not surprising that they should to a great extent have lost sight of that proper system of control of their whole operations which, under the pressure of the great cost of immigration, can alone hold out the slightest hope of ultimate success. And when, by the introduction of immigrants, they were put in possession of a description of labourers of the most docile character, I cannot but think that, perhaps involuntarily or even reluctantly, they permitted the new comers to fall into the very habits of idleness and irregularity from which, as exhibited by the Creole population, they had already so severely suffered.

16. A very striking illustration of this evil is to be found, in my opinion, in the very general prevalence of what is termed "task work;" that is, payment in proportion to the extent of work done, without any necessary reference to the time expended in the performance of it. What is this, at any rate in the

main, but a device for obtaining a certain amount of work without the trouble of efficient superintendence? As regards the Creoles, I am not prepared to deny, either that it was unavoidable, or that under all the circumstances it was not the least expensive mode. But with the immigrants the case is very different. They are introduced at a great cost for their passage; the employers are subject to a heavy outlay for their houses and hospitals. They are mostly introduced for limited periods, at the end of which another heavy expenditure becomes necessary. It requires little reasoning to prove, that although under the task system the immigrant is paid only for the work done, yet that the indirect loss from this wasteful expenditure of his services must be immense. No attempt has been made in the bill (for it would not have been safe) to interfere with this method of managing the labour on the estates. But in other respects there has been an effort to bring about a better system, under a conviction that without it this Colony cannot ultimately bear up against the extreme expense attendant upon the scheme of immigrant labour.

17. The first section introduced with this view is the 24th, which requires that upon every estate a muster roll shall be kept, and that the actual presence at some time during every twenty-four hours of every immigrant shall be ascertained. It is indeed a somewhat singular fact that such a practice should not already prevail upon these estates, where the number of hands employed is frequently very large, and where, by virtue of the existing law, all the immigrant labourers live in houses provided for them by the proprietors, generally contiguous to each other. But practically many of the labourers indentured on an estate may be absent for days, without the circumstance becoming known perhaps to the person in charge. The consequence is, that they desert perpetually, wander about the country, and become a prey to habits of idleness and debauchery, terminating in disease and misery;—while there is but too much reason to believe that the employers in many cases look to the services of labourers deserting from others, as a means of replacing those who may desert from themselves, rather than take the trouble of recovering the latter.

The principle which I have endeavoured to carry out is, that if an industrial residence (meaning thereby a residence for a certain fixed term of service with one employer) is to be insisted upon from the immigrant, as the condition for his obtaining his restoration to his own country, the employer on the other hand shall be compelled to exercise such diligence in the discharge of his own duty as shall, if possible, save the immigrant from exposure to the temptation of believing that he may violate the law with perfect impunity. This Section, therefore, subjects the manager to a penalty if he neglects this part of his duty, while at the same time the 30th Section provides that any complaint against an immigrant for absence from work shall be at once dismissed, if the muster roll is not properly kept.

18. The Sections from 25 to 36 inclusive provide for the settlement of disputes between immigrants and their employers, and they most of them resemble the provisions of the Ordinance No. 2 of last year, or those of a corresponding law, in force in Ceylon (under which latter Indian labourers have been long employed), both of which have received the approval of Her Majesty's Government. I only think it necessary, therefore, specially to call your Grace's attention to three of these Sections, viz., the 31st, 32nd, and 35th.

19. There being reason to believe that Her Majesty's Government would wish the bill to contain some definition of the number of hours to be reckoned as a day's labour, I endeavoured to ascertain what would be a fair term, with reference to the just rights of both parties; and it will be seen that, by the 31st Section, seven hours for the field labourers and ten for those employed about the buildings, have been determined on. Labour of the latter description is less fatiguing than the former, and is generally preferred by the labourers themselves. Even ten hours, it has been urged by many, will frequently be found too short a period at particular seasons. But the Court of Policy with very proper feeling supported the view that ten hours' labour would be as much as an employer should be allowed to demand under the authority of an enactment of this nature; and that where he required more, he must be left to make an arrangement on the best terms practicable with his labourers.

20. The 32nd Section will, I hope, meet with approval. It may easily happen that an employer falling into difficulties will be desirous of contracting

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his operations, even temporarily, and become unwilling to incur the expense of providing full employment for the immigrants under indentures to him. It would be most objectionable that the latter should under such circumstances be prevented from seeking other employment, and the section provides means for cancelling the indentures in such cases.

21. The 35th Section requires all complaints between immigrants and employers to be laid within thirty days from the occurrence of the subject matter. It is most desirable to prevent petty disputes of this nature from becoming the subject of legal proceedings after a long interval has elapsed.

22. I come next to the Sections which regulate the issue to the immigrants of certificates of industrial residence, after the completion of the service which at the time of their introduction they undertake to perform. And here it has been distinctly established that the onus of proving his industrial residence shall not lie upon the immigrant, but that the want of it must be otherwise established against him. It is also enacted by the 44th Section, that absence from service shall not operate towards the suspension of the issue of his certificate, unless taken cumulatively it amounts to or exceeds the proportion of one month for each year of his term of service. Looking to this very satisfactory arrangement of these points, as well as to the great power of control over all these matters virtually possessed by the Governor, I do not hesitate to support the other Sections, by which the absence of the immigrant from his employer's service is proposed to be both prevented and recorded against him.

23. But there is one of these Sections, the 41st, which without special explanation will be found unintelligible. While this bill was in preparation an application from an individual Coolie accidentally attracted my attention to the position of nearly 3,000 Coolies, who in 1851 received a bonus on condition of remaining five years longer in the colony. And the following curious disclosures were made. It had been determined by the authorities here that the money should be paid to these people, on condition of their entering into indentures of service under the law then in force. And printed forms of orders for payment were issued, distinctly reciting that condition. The task of paying them fell to the Immigration Agent-General and certain leading gentlemen of the colony, who were termed bounty commissioners. For some reason, which cannot now be very easily ascertained, the Coolies in question then announced their fixed determination to return home. The planters became much alarmed, and no doubt great efforts were made to persuade them to remain. The result was, that while the form of order for payment was retained, the money was actually paid without the condition of entering into indenture being fulfilled. The gentleman who was then Immigration Agent-General asserts in the most positive manner that he was ordered to take that course, and that he did it in the presence and with the concurrence of the bounty commissioners. That statement is supported by other testimony, although there are those who contradict it broadly. But I should add, that it has been ascertained that a considerable number of these Coolies have subsequently under various circumstances entered into indentures. It seemed clear to me, therefore, that it was out of the question now to hold the Coolies responsible for the non-fulfilment of the stipulation, and to demand of them, after the expiration of three years, that they should enter into indentures for the term specified. Great as had been the error committed, and heavy as was the loss entailed upon the colony, the act was that of its own officers. A long discussion took place, but the Section was ultimately passed as proposed; and under it the Coolies will be required, if the Ordinance is confirmed, to enter into indentures for the unexpired portion of the time for which they undertook to remain, which will be less than two years. The question was one of an unpleasant nature, and I hope your Grace will be satisfied with the course taken for disposing of it.

24. The 49th, 50th, 51st, and 53rd Sections regulate the granting of passports and back passages, and the payment of bonus to those immigrants who may be willing to remain in the colony for a second term of service. In the 49th it will be seen that the Court have conceded to the Coolies the privilege proposed by your Grace, but objected to in the last reply to your Despatch, No. 175, of the 16th January last, viz., that at the expiration of five years from

the time of his arrival the Coolie introduced for ten years should be permitted to leave at his own expense. It is declared at the same time that the colony cannot in such cases provide him with the means of leaving. This it would clearly be out of our power to do. In other respects these Sections will, I think, be found to meet the views of Her Majesty's Government.

25. I will not trespass further upon your Grace's time, and will plead as an excuse for the great length of this communication, my anxiety to omit no explanation upon any point likely to be canvassed on the determination of the fate of this bill. It is of the highest importance that the colony should by its confirmation be relieved from the evil effects of the uncertain condition of the law upon this subject; and I can with perfect truth assure your Grace that the Ordinance has been discussed by the Court of Policy with a degree of liberality and fairness which gives them a strong claim to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 8.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 29.)

Government House, Georgetown,
June 25, 1854.
(Received July 18, 1854.)
(Answered, No. 33, September 13, 1854, p. 54.)

My Lord Duke,

I have had the honour of receiving your Grace's Despatches,* No. 31, of the 20th, and No. 35, of the 31st May last, both relating to the subject of Coolie immigration.

* Pages 31 and 32.

2. In the last of those Despatches your Grace states, that in the draft Immigration Ordinance transmitted with your Despatch, No. 4, of the 10th March last, the allusion to your proposal of requiring from the Coolies, under certain circumstances, a payment of 35 dollars in aid of the expense of their return passages was advisedly omitted, in consequence of its being uncertain, as pointed out in your Despatch, No. 175,† of the 16th January last, whether the East India Company would assent to that arrangement.

† Page 1.

3. I can in all sincerity assure your Grace, and I think I shall be enabled shortly to prove, that I have never throughout the discussion of this measure lost sight of the uncertainty in which this particular point was involved. But at the same time I conceived that you were quite aware of the difficulties under which the Colony laboured for want of a final arrangement, and that it was my duty to promote the passing of an enactment without delay. It appeared quite impossible to frame and introduce any such bill without making distinct provision respecting the return passages, and it therefore followed that such provision should be in conformity with the plan proposed by your Grace, and assented to in the main by the Legislature of this colony, before my arrival. Your Grace's proposal in substance was that the Coolie should redeem five out of the ten years of indentured labour which, with the consent of the East India Company, he undertook to perform, by payment of thirty-five dollars in aid of his return passage, instead of having it provided for him free of charge. But the draft Ordinance above alluded to took away absolutely five out of the ten years' indentured (or industrial) service granted by the East India Company, and was altogether silent as to the equivalent proposed by your Grace. My fear was, therefore, that the making public of this draft might lead to much misapprehension; and accordingly, up to this hour, its existence is, I believe, unknown in the colony. If you should unfortunately disapprove of the course thus taken, you will, I trust, give me credit for having been actuated solely by the wish to promote a satisfactory and speedy settlement.

4. In your Despatch, No. 31, your Grace states your inability to assent to the modifications of your proposals which had been suggested by the Court of Policy, and it is therefore with much pleasure that I am enabled to refer you

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to the 49th and 53d sections of the Ordinance, showing that the Court of Policy have been induced to give full effect to your wishes, and to abandon all attempts at a modification of them.

5. There remains therefore for consideration, I earnestly hope, nothing more than the possibility of a refusal on the part of the East India Company to sanction the arrangement respecting part payment for back passages. That is a step which I have all along considered as by no means improbable, and it was mainly with a view to it that I induced the Court of Policy to agree to that part of the 50th section of the Ordinance which permits the Coolie to absolve himself from payment of the 35 dollars by voluntary prolongation of his service under indenture. Should the East India Company positively insist upon a free passage, I must candidly confess that I see no alternative but to convert this voluntary prolonged service into obligatory service like that of the first five years. I have paid the most anxious attention to this subject, not only with the wish of promoting the views of Her Majesty's Government, but also under the influence of that predisposition to support the interests of the Coolies which cannot easily be absent from the mind of one transferred to the West Indies after many years of constant public and private intercourse with the natives of the East.

I am not aware that anything likely to tend materially to their benefit has been omitted in the Ordinance, certainly not intentionally, and therefore it is that I have the less hesitation in assuring your Grace that it will be quite impracticable to obtain from the immigrant any equivalent for the half of the ten years conceded by the East India Company, unless he remain, in some shape or other, under indentures up to the time of his departure for his own country.

The fact is, that unless the Coolies remain employed for given periods, under proper supervision, on certain estates, it is absolutely impossible to identify them; and the information which has reached me already as to the frauds that have been committed by Coolies in personating dead men, and under different names taking bonus in lieu of back passage three and four times over, is of such a nature as to make me shrink from pressing any inquiry. They were all furnished with tickets containing their names, numbers, parentage, ship of import, and other particulars in sufficient detail to enable a man of ordinary intelligence to pass himself off as the rightful owner with comparatively little chance of detection. They have made use of these tickets as security deposits at the small shops from which they obtained supplies, as well as for borrowing money, and when any of them died these papers were carefully preserved by their friends and relations. Owing to the system prevailing on the estates, the managers had, so to speak, little or no knowledge of any of them; and the consequence has been that, even during the present year, numbers of them have received the bonus for postponing their return passages, and entering into indentures of service to certain employers under one set of names, and within a month or two have gone through exactly the same process under another set of names. And there is too much reason to believe that these frauds have been systematically facilitated by parties having, more or less, means of access to the records of the Immigration Department, who were enabled, from time to time, to ascertain what Coolies had died, and to make arrangements for their being impersonated.

6. Unless these frauds and the consequent fruitless expenditure of the public money can be put a stop to, I do not believe that the colony will be able to bear up against the cost of the introduction and retention of the immigrants, which must for the future be defrayed out of the annual revenues; and it is by no means unreasonable to suppose that, but for the facilities of obtaining money afforded by the loans, which have been just exhausted, the colonial Legislature would long ago have been compelled to devise some means for the better protection of the public interests.

7. Under all these circumstances I venture most respectfully, but most earnestly, to recommend your Grace, in the event of the Ordinance being in other respects approved of, and in the further event of the East India Company declining to sanction the arrangement proposed by you, to authorize the Legislature to pass a short Ordinance for the conversion of the voluntary prolonged service, contemplated in the 50th section, into obligatory service for the same period, to be brought into immediate operation.

8. In conclusion, I take the liberty of stating that an early settlement of the whole matter is, in every respect, most desirable. BRITISH GUIANA.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 9. No. 9.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 45.)

Government House, Georgetown, July 31, 1854.

(Received August 30, 1854.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 35, Sept. 18, 1854, page 56.)

I HAVE had the honour of receiving the Duke of Newcastle's Despatch, No. 43,* of the 12th of June last, enclosing copies of a correspondence with the Foreign Office, relative to a proposal made by Mr. White, for promoting the introduction of Chinese females into the West Indies. * Page 44.

It will be seen from my Despatch, No. 15,† of the 9th of May last, that I fully anticipated the expression in various quarters of the sentiments entertained by the Earl of Clarendon, with regard to the proposed advance by British authorities of funds for the purchase of Chinese females; and without entering into any discussion of the justice of such opinion, it will probably be safe to assume that emigration from China to the West Indies will, for the present at least, be altogether suspended. † Page 157.

I have, &c.

Sir George Grey, Bart., &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 10. No. 10.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 49.)

Government House, George Town, August 2, 1854.

SIR, (Received August 30, 1854.)

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Despatch, No. 3,‡ of the 19th June last, stating that the Portuguese Government had placed very inconvenient restrictions upon emigration from Madeira. But I am happy to be able to inform you of later intelligence having been received here from that island of the abandonment of those restrictions, and of the probable speedy departure of a large number of emigrants for this colony. ‡ Page 47.

I have, &c.

Sir George Grey, Bart., &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 11. No. 11.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 51.)

Government House, Georgetown, August 5, 1854.

SIR, (Received August 30, 1854.)

I HAVE had the honour of receiving the Duke of Newcastle's Despatch, No. 38,§ of the 12th June last, conveying his opinion upon certain suggestions from Mr. White, relative to the management of Chinese immigrants. § Page 34.

The number of Chinese already introduced into this colony is so limited, and there is so little present prospect of further immigration, that I confess, upon

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full consideration of the subject, I am not disposed to press upon the Court of Policy any attempt at special legislation respecting them.

I have, &c.

Sir George Grey, Bart., &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 82.)

Government House, Georgetown,
October 10, 1854.

(Received November 1, 1854.)

(Answered, No. 53, November 15, 1854, page 59.)

SIR,

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Despatch, No. 33*, of the 13th ultimo, informing me that you feel imperatively called upon to withhold your sanction from the Ordinance passed by the Court of Policy in June last, for the amendment and consolidation of the laws relating to immigration; unless amended in the manner pointed out therein. And I shall not disguise the disappointment which, for various reasons, I cannot but feel at the receipt of this communication, more particularly as I feel certain that no law upon such a subject could have been discussed by any legislature in a fairer spirit or with a more sincere desire to do justice in all essential particulars to those whose interests were to be affected by it.

* Page 54.

2. It is a matter of such extreme importance to the colony that the confusion which now prevails as to all matters connected with immigration should be speedily terminated, and above all that the revised law should be brought into operation before the arrival of any more Coolies from India, that I judged it right at once to summon a meeting of the Court of Policy, in order that if the members should be disposed to make the amendments suggested by you, the necessary steps might be taken before the departure of even one mail. The Court met accordingly yesterday, and I have the satisfaction of stating that they again gave proof of the honourable feeling by which they have been actuated throughout, by assenting to all the new proposals, and by incorporating them in the bill which I now enclose, and which I venture to hope will be permitted to receive the confirmation of Her Majesty.

Vide Appendix, No. 3, page 432.

3. It now becomes my duty to reply to the observations made in your Despatch under acknowledgment. Upon the 3rd and 4th paragraphs it is only necessary to state that neither the Court of Policy nor any other party ever contemplated the introduction of immigrants under the 5th section of the Ordinance, except with the sanction of Her Majesty's Government previously obtained; and I must take blame to myself if that was not clearly explained in my Despatch, No. 21,† of the 7th June last.

† Page 159.

4. It is quite true that there was no intention of subjecting the Chinese, by means of the 14th and 19th sections of the Ordinance, to an obligation to serve for two years over and above the term of their original contract. The Court of Policy conceived that they should be acting in accordance with the views of the Duke of Newcastle if they placed the Chinese, with respect to service under one employer, upon the same footing as the Coolies; and accordingly you will find that they have been required by the 16th section to enter into indentures for three years only. But Mr. Rose, who as the agent of Messrs. Hyde, Hodge, & Co. had assisted in the importation of the Chinese, represented that they ought not to be deprived of their right to claim employment for five years under their original contracts. Hence arose the obscurity of the 19th clause, which has I hope been removed by the omission of any allusion to the original contracts.

5. I come now to the more important observations contained in the sixth and three following paragraphs of your Despatch, from which I cannot but infer that my own conduct has been viewed with dissatisfaction, if not with suspicion, for having acquiesced in the omission of certain sections of the Ordinance, No. 2 of 1853, which you are of opinion should have been incorporated in the new Immigration Bill. I shall endeavour to furnish explanation in respect to

each of the omitted clauses, and shall support my statement by transmitting the drafts of the Bill as framed and amended at the time, principally in my own handwriting.

6. It will be within your knowledge that the late Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, forwarded to the Duke of Newcastle two Ordinances, one No. 2 of 1853, for the regulation of masters and servants, including immigrants, the other, No. 3 of 1853, for the management of immigration generally. His Grace allowed the former, but disallowed the latter. When, therefore, I undertook the preparation of a new Immigration Bill, I proposed at first to omit all allusion to matters provided for by the Ordinance No. 2 of 1853, and the "First Draft" will be found to have been framed accordingly. Further consideration showed that it would be very desirable to incorporate in one law the whole legislation affecting immigrants. This was done in the "Second Draft," in which will be found two of the sections, the 6th and the 14th, upon the absence of which you have commented, and they were in the "Ordinance as introduced" to the Court of Policy.

7. Before explaining further the history of the removal of these two sections from the bill, I will first state that the 13th Section of Ordinance No. 2 of 1853 was omitted throughout from my draft, because I never supposed that that section was intended to confer upon a single magistrate the absolute power of breaking off a written contract of such importance as the indenture of an immigrant. The Court has now inserted it in obedience to your commands.

8. When the section corresponding with Section 6 of No. 2 of 1853 was under consideration in Committee, it was pointed out that it referred mainly to the failure on the part of the employer to provide supplies in conformity with the contract, and that it might without injury be omitted, inasmuch as contracts of that nature had fallen altogether into disuse. The immigrants had desired payment of all their wages in money, and their wish had been acceded to. I thought the argument quite reasonable, and assented to the clause being expunged, under the impression that ill-usage of any other description could be readily punished in the ordinary course of law; but in conformity with your desire, a clause has been introduced subjecting any employer, for ill-usage of an immigrant, to a penalty not exceeding fifty dollars.

9. I have said that the clause corresponding with the 14th of Ordinance No. 2 of 1853, formed part of the bill at the time of its introduction into the Court of Policy, and I do not hesitate to say that I consented to its being omitted out of deference to the wishes of the Court, and from what I thought only a just appreciation of their mode of action. I had found them, as I before stated, most anxious to act fairly and liberally. I had found the elective members willing to carry out the views of Her Majesty's Government more fully than their predecessors. I was informed that it had never been found necessary for the Governor to exercise this power of removing immigrants from an estate. I was aware that the planters were under so severe a pressure from the want of labour, that they could not afford to drive away any by ill-usage. Above all, I know that the absolute power vested in the Governor, with respect to the allotment of immigrants, was sufficient, in consequence of this scarcity of labour, to enable him to repress anything like ill-usage on the part of the employers. I would fain hope that all these circumstances will be admitted as a substantial justification for my having deferred to the feeling of the Court of Policy so far as to abandon the abstract right to exercise a power which I believe never has been, and may very probably never be, called into action. The amended bill, however, now contains the clause in question.

10. The disclaimer contained in the 49th (now the 51st) clause was never intended to bear any other meaning than that which you have alluded to. The colony cannot undertake to incur a pecuniary charge for providing ships for immigrants wishing to return home before the expiration of their term of service, but will be ready in any other way to promote the attainment of their wishes.

11. Clause 51 (now the 53rd) has been amended as you have suggested, and the arrangement has been made subject to the election of the Governor General of India.

12. The 54th clause has been omitted.

BRITISH GUIANA.

13. The Court of Policy have been made acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government with respect to the numerical disproportion of male and female immigrants; and I can safely assure you that there is but one feeling in the minds of all the members upon that branch of the subject. But you will be aware that this question cannot be substantially treated until the time arrives for its being brought before the Combined Court at their next Annual Session.

14. I trust that I have now noticed every point of importance referred to in your Despatch; and I have only, in conclusion, to beg that if any have been left unnoticed, or if this communication should in any other respect appear to be imperfectly or abruptly written, you will do me the favour to remember how very short a time has been afforded me for its preparation, and that my great anxiety has been to obtain an early and favourable decision upon the Ordinance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Sir G. GREY, Bart.

(No. 90.)

Government House, Georgetown,
November 24, 1854.
(Received December 16, 1854.)
(Answered No. 72, January 16, 1855, page 64.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to you the copy of the Report made by the Emigration Agent General upon the shipment of 251 Coolies in the ship "Sandford," bound for Calcutta; and I trust that you will be satisfied with the precautions taken for ensuring the health and comfort of these people upon the voyage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Sir G. GREY, Bart.

(No. 95.)

Government House, Georgetown,
December 9, 1854.

SIR,

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Despatch, No. 49, of the 9th ult., in reply to mine of the 14th September last, from which it appears that you have arrived at the conclusion that this colony is not in a condition to afford further expenditure in immigration.

It is hardly necessary for me to say, that I am fully aware of the weight of the charges for which provision has to be made out of the colonial revenue; but I must beg leave to mention that I have lately taken opportunities of conversing with several of our leading men upon this subject, and that all concur in the opinion that continued immigration can alone preserve the agricultural interests, and that by some means the sums necessary must be procured.

I earnestly beg you, therefore, not to issue any directions, or to express in other quarters any opinion calculated to encourage the belief that immigration to Demerara will be discontinued, until I have been enabled to lay before you the proceedings of the Combined Court for next year, and thus make you acquainted with the proposed scheme for payment. The planters will, I think, be prepared to contribute in some shape a larger proportion of the cost of the

immigrants, more particularly as you have been good enough to recommend the confirmation of the Immigration Ordinance lately passed, by which, I trust, much waste, irregularity, and confusion will be prevented.

I may also express my belief that there will be a general readiness to make increased sacrifices for the purpose of introducing a larger number of females, to the importance of which the planters are apparently as much alive as Her Majesty's Government; and I shall take an early opportunity of addressing you further upon this branch of the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c.

No. 15.

No. 15.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart., G.C.B.

(No. 101.) Government House, Georgetown, December 16, 1854.

SIR, (Received January 24, 1855.)

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Despatch, No. 48, of the 8th November last, enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Hong Kong, relative to the future management of immigration from China.

By my Despatch No. 15,* of the 9th May last, I made Her Majesty's Government aware that this Colony was not at present prepared to incur further expenditure on account of Chinese; and I have only now to express my hope that before making any new permanent and general arrangement you will be good enough to afford me an opportunity of ascertaining the wishes of the colonists upon the subject.

* Page 157.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., G.C.B.,
&c. &c.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. SIDNEY HERBERT.

(No. 36.) Government House, Georgetown, March 24, 1855.

(Received April 18, 1855.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 29, June 29, 1855, page 74.)

BY my Despatch No. 28, of the 10th inst., I informed Sir George Grey that the Combined Court had adjourned to Monday the 19th inst., on which day it proposed to take into consideration the question of immigration. Accordingly on that day, after the presentation of the usual reply to the Governor's speech,* of which reply I enclose a copy, the Court proceeded at once to the discussion of this all-important subject. The debate was opened by Mr. A. MacRae, one of the financial representatives, largely connected with sugar estates, and from his character and long experience commanding in a high degree the respect and confidence of the public.

Enclosure 1.

* Vide Extract of Governor's speech, Appendix No. 11, page 445.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure 2.

2. This gentleman moved a resolution, herewith enclosed, amounting in substance to a direct negative of the recommendation made in my speech. His arguments went to show, both that the planters could not sustain any further direct charge, and also that they did in point of fact already pay a very undue proportion of the whole taxation of the Colony. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Brice, a financial representative from Berbice and likewise a planter.

Enclosure 3.

3. To this resolution an amendment was proposed by Mr. J. Jones and seconded by Mr. R. Smith (both of them members of the Court of Policy and very extensive planters), assenting to my proposal to throw upon the planter the payment of the cost of the passage hither of the immigrant, but claiming in return the immediate repeal of the produce export duty. A long debate ensued, in which this last-mentioned point was strenuously urged by all the other members of the agricultural interest. I thought it my duty to point out to them that they could not with any degree of propriety or consistency propose that they should be at once relieved of this tax, whatever might be the course ultimately taken with respect to it; that no additional burthen was to be immediately put upon them, inasmuch as they were already bound to pay ten dollars per annum for three years, for every Coolie allotted to them, and that it was not till the expiration of those three years (now just commencing) that they would be asked to continue the same payment for two years longer, in return for the services of a seasoned and experienced labourer. Whereas, in the case of the community at large, an immediate additional contribution would be required, if my plan were adopted, at the rate of 145,000 dollars per annum, for the liquidation of existing liabilities.

Enclosure 4.

4. Mr. Jones's amendment having been negatived by a majority of nine to six, a series of resolutions were moved by Mr. Luckie, a member of the Court of Policy connected with both the mercantile and planting interests, and seconded by Mr. L. Smith, Solicitor-General and a financial representative, calculated to carry out in the main the proposals made by the Government.

5. The Court then adjourned till the following day, when Mr. Jones, supported by other members, announced that if I adhered to my resolution of resisting the repeal of the produce tax, I should force him and his friends to vote for the motion of Mr. MacRae, which would inevitably stop immigration and ruin the Colony; and that upon me alone would the responsibility rest. I was compelled to tell them in reply that they were entirely mistaken; that having shown them the state of their affairs and recommended a certain course, my responsibility was at an end; that they alone were interested, and that it was for them, if they thought proper, to reject that course and to decide upon some other, in carrying out which it would be my duty to give them any assistance in my power. They then endeavoured to obtain my concurrence in omitting all mention of the produce tax, and thus leaving that point open to settlement in the arrangement of ways and means. I replied that as they had evinced so plainly their anxiety to get rid of this burthen, and thus to throw upon the general revenue an additional charge of 40,000 dollars, without showing whence it was to be obtained, it would be impossible for me in such case to assure you, when writing for immigrants, that the revenue and expenditure for the year would be put upon a satisfactory footing. The result was, that after some further discussion, the resolutions proposed by Mr. Luckie were carried without alteration by a majority of eleven to four.

Reports of the debates* on both days are herewith forwarded for your information.

* Being very voluminous are not printed.

6. This discussion has confirmed the intimation conveyed in my Despatch No. 95,† of the 9th December last, of my confidence that the planters would be so fully convinced of the absolute necessity for a continuance of immigration, that they would take upon themselves a sufficient share of its cost to prevent the Colony from increasing its permanent debt. And I hope you will allow me to impress upon you most earnestly that the continuance of immigration is indispensable, as the only available means of preserving this fine Colony from ruin. The extension from five to ten years of the period of residence of the Indian immigrant and the confirmation of the Immigration Ordinance have both tended to increase greatly the value of the immigrants, and to reduce the

† Page 170.

pressure of the heavy charge for back passages. It would therefore be the cause of bitter disappointment if a check to the influx of labour should be now interposed, and the extinction of the sugar cultivation would be the inevitable result. The Creole population would at once take advantage of such a contingency to make demands for wages not only far beyond the value of any work which they would perform, but beyond what the planters could in the present state of the markets possibly afford to pay.

7. We had lately a very unfavourable specimen of the industrial and moral disposition of the Creoles on the occasion of the late inundation. They took advantage of the crisis to demand preposterous wages for very bad work, notwithstanding that the property of many of their own race was endangered, while Portuguese immigrants were working well and cheerfully for reasonable wages; and yet Creoles of exactly the same class were at the same time, as prisoners at hard labour, working hard for many hours without becoming discontented. The latter simply knew that they must do what was ordered, and which they saw was necessary, and they thought no more about it.

8. Indeed there is no possibility of denying the existence of the evils to which Lord Grey alluded so strongly in his Despatch, No. 51, of the 1st June 1849, and which he justly attributed to the erroneous system of government which prevailed for some years after the emancipation of the negroes. How the progress of those evils is to be now arrested, and how the Creole population is to be brought into habits of order, decency, and industry, habits quite as essential to their own permanent good as to the benefit of the planters, it is most difficult to discover. But I do hope that Her Majesty's Government, while they continue to urge the colonists to improve the moral condition of the mass of the people by the diffusion of religion and education, will afford them due encouragement by promoting that steady influx of immigrants from our eastern possessions by which alone they can hope to maintain their ground. The condition of the latter, I can testify from personal experience, is improved by their transfer to this country.

9. By the next mail I shall probably be able to state the number of Coolies with which the colonists would be glad to be supplied during the next season; and I will take this opportunity of pressing upon your notice the possible expediency of renewing the emigration from Madras, as there seems great reason to doubt if the wants of the several West Indian colonies can be supplied from Bengal alone. I am aware that some years ago a prejudice was entertained against Madras Coolies; but this arose, as far as I can gather, from the fact of very inferior people having been sent, and from the state of the law at the time of their arrival in this colony, by which they were permitted to wander from place to place without control of any kind. There are now here Madras Coolies strong and efficient as any, and I can say, from several years' acquaintance with them, that there is no reason why they should not answer as well as those from Bengal.

10. Even if you should be disposed to view my suggestion with favour, it will not be practicable for the Land and Emigration Commissioners to charter ships for Madras for the next season; but perhaps you might be prepared to authorize the Protector of emigrants at Madras to take up ships himself if he could procure Coolies to load them.

11. It remains for me to notice the question of the proportion of females. The reply of the Combined Court to my address shows the anxiety of the colony for their introduction; and I can with safety promise that a bonus, if necessary, to induce them to come will be cheerfully paid.

May I also suggest that little good will be derived from too strict inquiries as to their being married or single, or as to their morals. No great importance is attached to these considerations by the immigrants, nor certainly by the lower order of the Creoles; and therefore I would submit that there is no good reason for increasing the difficulty of overcoming the disproportion of sexes, by insisting upon a higher moral condition in the first instance than would prevail if they were to remain in India.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Encl. 1 in No. 16.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

EXTRACT from Reply to Governor's Speech.

RESPECTFULLY differing as some of us do with your Excellency on the subject of future immigration and the manner of providing for it, and being in the knowledge that a motion on this subject is to be made the first matter for consideration in this Court, it is not necessary for us to dwell further on the subject here, beyond stating our firm conviction that the prospects of the colony are mainly dependent on the continuance of immigration.

We entirely concur in the wish of the Secretary of State as to a larger proportion of female immigrants being in future sent to the colony; in fact we have always advocated this measure.

Encl. 2 in No. 16.

Enclosure 2 in No. 16.

The order of the day was Mr. Macrae's motion, of which he had given notice on 2nd instant:—

"That previous to this Court proceeding with the estimate of this year, this Court shall "affirm the principle of continuing immigration under Ordinance, No. 7 of 1854, founded "upon the resolutions of the Combined Court of the 18th March 1854, this Court being "of opinion that immigration so conducted tends to the benefit and comparative prosperity "of the colony at large."

Encl. 3 in No. 16.

Enclosure 3 in No. 16.

"That this Court deems the continuance of immigration to be absolutely essential to "the prosperity of the colony, and, indeed, to its very existence as a sugar producing "country. It having, however, become desirable to readjust the rates hitherto paid by "the employers of immigrants,

"It is resolved, that after 1st July next the rate to be paid by the said employers of "immigrants shall be as follows:—

For each Indian immigrant, Fifty dollars.
„ Portuguese „ Thirty do.

"Ten dollars to be paid in each case on the execution of the contract of indenture, and "the balance in four equal annual instalments, bearing interest.

"In the event of the Indian immigrant changing his employer upon the expiration of "his first contract of three years, the new employer with whom he may engage for the "remaining two years of his term of service under contract shall become bound for the "instalments remaining unpaid, or if the immigrant shall take advantage of the alterna-"tive allowed him under clause 19 of the Ordinance, No. 7 of 1854, then the sum of five "pounds, for which he thereby renders himself liable to the colony, shall go in lieu of the "two instalments due upon the original contract; and that in consideration of the great "expense which will be entailed on the planting interest, by the foregoing regulations "and the impolitic nature of the present export tax on the staple production of the colony, "the same tax shall cease to be levied after the first day of July next."

Encl. 4 in No. 16.

Enclosure 4 in No. 16.

"1. Resolved—That this Court is of opinion, that a continuance of immigration "is indispensable for the maintenance and promotion of the best interests of the "colony.

"2. Resolved—That this Court, looking to the present state of the finances of the "colony, is of opinion, that the cost of the passage hither of Indian immigrants or its "equivalent, £50, should, subject to certain conditions, be 'borne' by the planters to "whom they may be indentured for the first five years of their industrial residence, they "paying at the same rate per annum for five years as they now pay for the first three "years service of the immigrant under indenture, namely, £10 per annum.

"3. Resolved—That this Court will, on special considerations, sanction the payment "out of the general revenue of such further sums as may be required for immigration "purposes.

"4. Resolved—That the Governor and Court of Policy be requested to pass an Ordi-"nance for raising upon the guarantee of the colonial revenues such sum as may be "required for payment of the passage of Indian immigrants to the colony after 1855; "for binding the estates on behalf of which applications may be made for such immi-"grants to take such as may be allotted to them; for rendering each such estate liable "for the payment of £20 in addition to the sum now payable; the said £20 to be "payable as follow:—Ten dollars with interest for the fourth year of indenture, and ten

" dollars with interest for the fifth year of indenture; and for declaring that in the event
" of the immigrant entering into indenture to serve upon some other estate at the expira-
" tion of the first three years, or at the expiration of the fourth year after his arrival, such
" other estate shall then for the payment become liable to pay the said sum of ten dollars,
" due on account of each such year.

" 5. Resolved—That pending the completion of the arrangements required by the fore-
" going resolutions, the Governor be authorized to advance out of the Colonial funds the
" amount required for the passage of such Indian immigrants as may be applied for on
" account of the season of 1855 and 1856, and to recover such advances out of the sum to
" be raised under the preceding 4th resolution.

" 6. Resolved—That this Court is not unmindful, that when in 1853 the planters were
" called upon to pay one-third, and in 1854 one-half of the cost of the passage of immi-
" grants, it was resolved, that the interest and sinking fund of the public debt should
" be paid out of the general revenue; and this Court now resolves, that in consideration
" of the planters taking upon themselves the payment of the whole cost of the passage,
" and in consideration of their being liable to the payment of the produce export duty,
" the colony shall take upon itself the additional payment, out of the general revenues,
" of the back passages of the Indian immigrants for which no provision has hitherto
" been made."

No. 17.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 47.)

Government House, Georgetown,
April 20, 1855.
(Received May 22, 1855.)
(Answered, No. 29, June 29, 1855, page 74.)

MY LORD,

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 36,* of the 24th ultimo, I beg leave to inform your Lordship of my having up to this day received from those interested in the several sugar estates of the colony, applications to be supplied during the next season with rather more than 3,000 Indian immigrants, of which they would wish nearly one half to be females. I cannot yet send a list of all the applicants, neither can I furnish the names of the parties in England whose assent will in some cases be required; but I have no hesitation in saying that the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners may proceed with safety to make arrangements for procuring 3,000 Indian immigrants for this colony during the season of 1855–6.

* Page 171.

In my Despatch above mentioned I took the liberty of suggesting that recourse should again be had to the Presidency of Madras for some of the labourers required for the West Indian colonies; and the intelligence which I have since received from Bengal induces me to press that recommendation again upon your Lordship's notice. In the present very depressed condition of the sugar market at home, the planters really require all the support which Her Majesty's Government can in reason extend to them, to enable them to struggle against the difficulties created by the indolence and irregular habits of the Creole population.

* * * * * * * *

The presence of Lord Harris at Madras affords in itself the strongest encouragement to the renewal of emigration from that Presidency. The interest which his Lordship has taken in West Indian affairs, and his intimate acquaintance with the condition of our immigrant population, will ensure the selection of a class of labourers well qualified for employment here. And I therefore hope that your Lordship will pardon the urgency of the recommendation which in these times of difficulty I have ventured to make, and that you will cause Lord Harris to be furnished with the authority of Her Majesty's Government and the Court of Directors for forwarding some Madras labourers to this colony.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.
&c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 88.) Government House, Georgetown, June 25, 1855.
(Received July 23, 1855.)

MY LORD, (Answered No. 22, August 28, 1855, page 77.)

Vide Appendix, No. 2, page 431.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for Her Majesty's confirmation, an Ordinance, No. 8 of 1855, "to amend Ordinance No. 7 of the year 1854, in "respect to the payments of contract duty to be made by the employers of "Indian immigrant labourers."

This Ordinance is intended to give effect to the proposal for devolving upon the planters the payment of the whole cost of introducing immigrants from India, as explained in my Despatch, No. 36, of the 24th March last.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 19.

No. 19.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 94.) Government House, Georgetown, July 7, 1855.
(Received August 4, 1855.)

MY LORD, (Answered, No. 26, September 3, 1855, page 77.)

* Page 175.

WITH reference to my Despatch, No. 47,* of the 20th April last, I beg to state that I have now received applications for rather more than 3,500 Indian labourers, and that it will give great satisfaction if your Lordship can cause the introduction of that number during the next season.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 110.) Berbice, July 29, 1855.

MY LORD, (Received September 6, 1855.)

† Page 76.

I BEG leave to acknowledge your Lordship's Despatch, No. 29,† of the 29th ultimo, and lose no time in replying to the 7th, 8th, and 9th paragraphs, which have reference to the powers exercised by the Governor in controlling the relations subsisting between the immigrants and their employers, and also to the term of the indentures of service.

As there never was any intention of curtailing the very extensive powers conferred upon the Governor by the Ordinance, No. 7 of 1854, or of disturbing the arrangement (made by direction of the Duke of Newcastle, and embodied in that Ordinance) under which the Coolies have a right to change their employers at the end of the third and fourth years, it did not occur to me that there was any necessity for touching upon those points.

The Ordinance transmitted with my Despatch, No. 88, of the 25th ultimo which contains all that is required, except provisions for raising a loan), leaves the powers of the Governor untouched, and provides for the transfer of the liabilities of an employer whose Coolies may determine to leave him. I therefore venture to hope that it may meet with approval.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 21.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 114.)

Government House, Georgetown,
August 9, 1855.
(Received September 6, 1855.)
(Answered, No. 2, November 24, 1855, page 78.)

MY LORD,

I HOPE your Lordship will permit me to offer some observations upon that part of the letter from the Under-Secretary of State to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners of the 18th June* last, in which it is stated,— * Page 75.
"As regards the mode of payment for the vessels employed in this service, "you will acquaint the agents that, as the requisite funds to cover such expen- "diture are not in your hands, the charter-parties must distinctly lay down "that the owners of the vessels must look to the colony for their money, and "that they (the agents) are on no account to make the home authorities "responsible or liable for the sums that may become due to the owners."

I cannot foresee to what extent this determination, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, may operate to the prejudice of the colony in the negotiations with the shipowners, but I hope I may, without presumption, solicit of your Lordship a reconsideration of your decision, if it should prove likely to check the importation of immigrants. I justify this solicitation by the fact of the colony being prohibited from negotiating with shipowners otherwise than through the Emigration Commissioners, and also by the fact of my having last year received from Her Majesty's Government a communication quite at variance with your Lordship's present announcement.

The Emigration Commissioners, in a letter addressed to Mr. Merivale on the 9th March 1854, made use of expressions which led me to fear the adoption of a course similar to that now laid down by your Lordship; and having, in consequence, urgently remonstrated against it by my Despatch No. 5,† of the † Page 152.
22d April 1854, I received from Sir George Grey, in his Despatch No. 8,‡ of ‡ Page 50.
the 26th June 1854, a reply to the following effect:—

"You have not correctly interpreted the passages which you quote from "that report. The Commissioners, as you will find, did not suggest, nor did "the Duke of Newcastle, as I am informed, understand their suggestion as "importing that they should not incur liabilities beyond the amount of money "actually in their hands, but only that due and legal provision should have "been made for it, and the faith of the Combined Court should have been "pledged to produce the amount when required."

In dealing with questions of this nature, I have considered it my duty to regard Despatches of the character of that quoted above as laying down general principles of action, and have thought that, provided I took care to obtain from the Colonial Legislature a due compliance with the requirements of Her Majesty's Government, I might, on the other hand, rely with confidence upon the support and co-operation of the Secretary of State. Accordingly, in the present instance, I took care that "due and legal provision" should be made, and that "the faith of the Combined Court" should be pledged to "produce the amount;" and I hoped that your Lordship would have been satisfied upon those points by the resolutions transmitted with my Despatch No. 36,§ of the § Page 171.
24th March last, and especially by the fifth resolution, which contained a full authority to me to pay the amount out of the colonial revenue if necessary.

Your Lordship will, I hope, give me credit for a desire to avoid giving you unnecessary trouble upon this or upon any other subject; but it is impossible to study attentively the questions of immigration and the supply of labour without a feeling of deep anxiety, without a wish to spare no pains to avert calamity. I would abstain from all exaggeration, from all groundless alarm; but I have, nevertheless, no hesitation in assuring your Lordship that an interruption of the immigration, however caused, would, in the present condition of the Creole population, bring about the speedy and entire ruin of the colony. If, on the other hand, immigration be maintained, there is good reason to hope that the colony will prosper, and that the condition of every class of the population will be improved. For this we must, of course, be

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dependent upon the mother country; but I cannot believe that your Lordship will consider it unwise, or even imprudent, in a merely pecuniary point of view, to give the colony the assistance of the credit of Great Britain, if it can be done without any charge, and if by so doing one at least of the West Indian colonies can be saved from total destruction.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 121.)

Government House, Georgetown, August 25, 1855.

MY LORD, (Received September 19, 1856.)

I BEG leave to submit to your Lordship, for the confirmation of Her Majesty, an Ordinance, No. 16 of 1855, "for raising a loan for the introduction "of Indian immigrants into British Guiana," which has been passed for the purpose of carrying into effect the arrangement of which I have received your Lordship's approval by your Despatch No. 29* of the 29th June last.

Vide Appendix No. 3, Page 432.

* Page 74.

2. The 1st section of the bill declares that three of the principal public servants of the colony shall be the Commissioners for carrying out its provisions; and the 2nd and 3rd Sections authorize them to borrow from time to time such sums, not exceeding on the whole 150,000*l.*, as the Governor may require to enable him to pay for the passage of immigrants introduced from India. The 2nd Section is so worded as to recognize the possibility of the amount being in the first instance advanced out of the public revenue, with the view of deferring as long as possible the borrowing of money, and thus effecting a saving of interest. The whole loan has been limited to 150,000*l.*, upon a calculation that that sum will be sufficient to provide for as many immigrants as are likely to be introduced during a period of five years.

3. The 9th Section empowers the Commissioners to pay the interest and principal becoming due to the bondholders, out of sums to be received by them from the Colonial Receiver-General of the colony, under the provisions of the 7th and 8th Sections, both of which require explanation. By the 21st Section of the Ordinance No. 7 of 1854 it was provided, that employers to whom immigrants were allotted should pay a portion of the passage money, partly in cash and partly by promissory notes to the Receiver-General, who was at the same time invested with a claim upon the estates for the amount of the notes, preferent over all other liens and mortgages except those of the Crown. And when by the Ordinance No. 8 of the present year the employers were rendered liable for a larger proportion of the passage money, similar powers were granted to the Receiver-General for its recovery. That having, therefore, been fully provided for, it was only necessary in the present bill to direct all the sums recovered to be paid over to the Loan Commissioners. For your Lordship's full satisfaction on this point I enclose copies of the Ordinances No. 7 † of 1854, and No. 8 † of 1855.

† Vide pages 418 and 431.

4. The 8th Section is intended to meet those cases in which the amount paid for the passage of the immigrant will exceed the sum of 50 dollars, which is all that will be recovered from the planter; and your Lordship will perceive that it contemplates the payment out of the colonial revenues of one fifth of that excess annually for five years.

5. The 10th Section empowers the Governor to pay any sums becoming due to the bondholders, whenever the Commissioners shall be unable, whether from default of the employers or from any other cause, to meet their liabilities.

6. Having thus brought under your Lordship's notice the principal sections of an Ordinance which has been framed with every desire to render it worthy of the approval of Her Majesty's Government, I hope I may be permitted to

offer some observations upon your separate Despatch* of the 29th June last, enclosing the copy of a letter in which the Lords of the Treasury state that they cannot hold out an expectation that any further loan for immigration can be raised under the guarantee of the Imperial Government. I shall not disguise from your Lordship that I have refrained from giving publicity to this intimation, and have contented myself with expressing great doubts of our obtaining any such guarantee, being not altogether without hope that Her Majesty's Government might be induced by certain circumstances to reconsider their determination.

* Page 76.

7. It is quite unnecessary for me to waste time in attempting to convince your Lordship of the certain heavy loss to which the colony must be subjected, if compelled to negotiate this loan upon its own credit alone. That is a subject upon which no doubt whatever can be entertained. I shall only beg you to consider whether the Home Government is really called upon, from a sense of duty, to do this injury, or, more strictly speaking, to cause this loss to the colony, by withholding its countenance on the present occasion. We have met all our engagements. We shrink from no burthens. The planters are making every exertion, and my own belief is that with continued immigration we can maintain our position. It has also occurred to me, that the Lords of the Treasury may not have taken into consideration the very limited liability to which, under the present scheme, they would of necessity subject themselves, by undertaking this guarantee. It is probable that the average sum likely to be required annually will not exceed 30,000*l.*; and their Lordships will at all times have it in their power, if dissatisfied with the aspect of affairs, to refuse to lend their support to any further operations. I can scarcely think that when the matter is put before them they will feel bound to adhere to their present decision; and in the event of their so directing me, I shall be quite prepared to propose to the Combined Court the establishment of certain taxes as a special security during the continuance of the loan.

* * * * * *

Begging your Lordship to pardon me for having troubled you at such length upon a matter of such importance to this Colony,

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 23.

No. 23.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. Sir William Molesworth, Bart.

(No. 137.)

Government House, Georgetown,
September 25, 1855.
(Received October 19, 1855.)
(Answered, No. 15, December 31, 1855, page 82.)

Sir,

I am so fully sensible of the extent to which I have on different occasions trespassed on the attention of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the question of immigration to this colony, that nothing but a conviction of its vital importance and a sense of the obligation resting upon me to leave no effort untried for promoting it, would induce me now to address you on the subject.

The particular matter to which I would call your attention is involved in the 5th section of our Ordinance, No. 7 of 1854, which declares the sums which shall be payable to parties who may import immigrants at their own expense under license from the Governor, which license, it is understood, the Governor will not grant without the previous sanction of Her Majesty's Government. No alteration can, of course, now be made in the arrangements sanctioned for the season of 1855 and 1856; but looking to the great amount of time usually required for bringing to a conclusion any negotiations upon subjects of this nature, I scarcely think that it is premature now to bring under your notice points which may affect the arrangements for 1856-57.

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A strong impression prevails in the minds of the planters generally, and particularly among those of large capital, that they could, if permitted, introduce into the colony, by their private exertions, a larger number of immigrants than are now obtainable, and those at a less expensive rate.

I shall not offer any opinion upon the soundness of these views, as you will be enabled to obtain accurate information upon all points from commercial gentlemen at home; but I trust it will be admitted, that if rules can by any means be framed under which private importation can be conducted in an unobjectionable manner, there will be no good reason for refusing to sanction the attempt.

I therefore hope that you will be good enough to take this subject into early consideration, and favour me with a statement of the terms upon which Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to sanction the issue of licences for the introduction of Indians and Chinese, in order that I may be enabled to ascertain whether it would be in the power of the planters to comply with them.

I have, &c.

Sir William Molesworth, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 24.

No. 24.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Bart.

(No. 142.)

Government House, Georgetown, October 4, 1855.

(Received October 31, 1855.)

SIR,

(Answered, No. 3, November 26, 1855, p. 79.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 22,* of the 28th August last, and am compelled to admit the omission in the Ordinance, No. 8 of 1855, of any provision for cancelling the promissory notes of employers whose Coolies may commute a part of their time of service.

* Page 77.

This error does not, however, extend to cases of death, as the planters always have been and will continue liable to pay for those who die.

Under all these circumstances I shall be glad if you will allow me to leave the matter undisturbed for the present.

I have, &c.

Sir William Molesworth, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 25.

No. 25.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Bart.

(No. 145.)

Government House, Georgetown, October 9, 1855.

(Received October 31, 1855.)

SIR,

(Answered, No. 15, December 31, 1855, p. 82.)

WITH reference to the "Correspondence† upon the subject of emigration "from China," lately presented to the House of Commons, and of which I received a copy by the mail which arrived yesterday, I take the liberty of asking whether any further communications have passed on the same subject between the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office; as I infer from Lord Wodehouse's letter to Mr. Merivale of the 24th October last, that the arguments of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners and of the Lieutenant-Governor of Hong Kong have gone far to remove the objections

† Vide Papers on Chinese Emigration, presented to both Houses by Command, April 1855.

previously entertained by Lord Clarendon to the plan proposed for obtaining Chinese female immigrants. BRITISH GUIANA.

I think it very probable that some of the planters of this colony could make an effort to obtain Chinese immigrants, both male and female, on their own account, if informed that they might do so, subject to the regulations laid down by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

Sir William Molesworth, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 26. No. 26.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Bart.

(No. 154.)

Government House, Georgetown, November 3, 1855.

(Received December 3, 1855.)

(Answered, No. 11, December 14, 1855, p. 81.)

SIR,

I BEG leave to bring under your consideration certain circumstances bearing upon the supply of immigrant labour required by this colony, in the hope that you will be good enough to take an early opportunity of informing me whether my views meet with your approval, and whether I may rely on your support in carrying them out, if events should render it desirable to do so.

2. You are aware that after Parliament had assented to the issue of loans to the several West Indian colonies to meet the expense of introducing immigrants, Her Majesty's Government authorized the application of a part of the funds raised for that purpose to the payment of bounty to such Indian immigrants as were willing, after the completion of their original term of service, to enter into renewed engagements for a like period; it being justly considered that this renewal was equivalent to the introduction of a new immigrant.

3. Under this arrangement a very considerable portion of the loan funds was expended, but, as there is reason to fear, with an inadequate result. From the confused state of the regulations for the management of the immigrants and from other causes they were frequently enabled to obtain bounty two or three times over under different names, and to commit other frauds upon the colony and their employers; while the facility with which the funds were obtained, by means of loans charged against the revenue and not in due proportion against the employers, undoubtedly tended to encourage a lavish and improvident expenditure on the part of those to whom the control was mainly entrusted, and who naturally sought at almost any cost to command an abundant supply of labour.

4. By the Ordinance, No. 7* of 1854, passed for the consolidation and amendment of the various conflicting laws upon the subject, the immigrants have, I am happy to say, been brought in a great measure under control, and the previous system of vagabondism, so prejudicial both to themselves and to their employers, has been mainly put an end to; while by the Ordinance, No. 8 of 1855, the payment for their introduction has been transferred to the employers. *Appendix No. 1, page 418.

5. There is, therefore, every reason to hope that a full return will be received for all expenditure to be hereafter incurred for the introduction of immigrants; and it is only under an apprehension of a deficient supply (caused by private intelligence from India), that I am now induced to ask whether you will be prepared to sanction a renewal of the payment of bounty, and, as before, to hold it equivalent to the introduction of a new labourer.

6. The Ordinance, No. 16 of 1855,† now under your consideration, authorizes the raising of a loan for the introduction of new immigrants, on condition that the sums paid shall be repaid by the planters in five years; and I am anxious to know whether Her Majesty's Government see any objection to the appli- † Appendix No. 3, page 432.

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cation of this loan to the payment of bounty to Coolies now here, who may be willing to enter into renewed engagements for five years, on condition that the planters shall repay the amount in five years, and likewise that the Coolies shall, as at present, be allowed to change their employers, or to commute the service fo ıa money payment at the end of the fourth and fifth years.

7. If we could have relied with confidence upon an adequate supply of immigrants being introduced for the extended term of residence lately agreed to by the East India Company, it would have been disadvantageous to expend our funds in inducing those now here to remain for another term of five years only. But looking to the probability of a deficient supply, and to the undoubted fact that the term of residence of large numbers of the Coolies now here will expire in 1856 and the following years, it may become essential to the existence of the colony that the planters be enabled, as before, to offer the Coolies an adequate consideration for the renewal of their engagements, and thus prevent the ruinous interruption of the operations on estates which must result from the annual withdrawal of the Coolies. Moreover, the introduction of a better system of management for the immigrants is gradually making an impression upon the whole labouring population; and we may, therefore, with the assistance of this organized body of Indian labour, possibly effect in the course of a few years such an improvement of the character of the Creoles as will prevent the colony from being, in consequence of the idleness of the native inhabitants, so inconveniently dependent upon foreign aid.

8. I ought also to add that a considerable immediate relief would be afforded to the Colonial Treasury by the postponement for five years of the heavy charge which must otherwise be incurred for return passages.

9. It is unnecessary for me to enter into further details in order to satisfy you of the importance of this question. If the Lords of the Treasury should have been induced to sanction the guarantee by the Home Government of the loans to be annually raised under the Ordinance,* No. 16 of 1855, their assent will also be required to the appropriation of part of the funds for the payment of bounty; but, otherwise, I shall only require your authority for the enactment of an Ordinance to legalize the scheme here proposed. And I have to beg that I may be furnished with your instructions as speedily as possible, in order that the question may be submitted to the Combined Court, that provision may be made in due time for the return passages of those Coolies who may decide upon going to India in 1856; and likewise that I may be enabled to distribute fairly and advantageously such Coolies as may arrive from India during the approaching season.

* Vide Appendix No. 3, page 432.

I have, &c.

Sir William Molesworth, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 27.

No. 27.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 164.)

Government House, Georgetown, December 8, 1855.

(Received January 5, 1856.)

(Answered, No. 49, March 27, 1856, page 84.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 49,† of the 9th ultimo, enclosing correspondence with the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, showing that the Coolies who are now leaving India for this colony positively decline to contribute towards the expense of their passage back to their own country, and that the demand of such a payment is likely to deter them from coming here.

† Page 77.

I hope you will allow me to point out with all deference, that this difficulty has been superadded to the others which beset the question of immigration, altogether by Her Majesty's Government.

The Court of Directors assented to the introduction of the Coolies under the joint conditions of 10 years' industrial residence and a free passage back to India; and the Coolies prefer those terms to an industrial residence of five years,

an idle residence of five years, and a contribution towards the cost of the return passage. But the Duke of Newcastle intimated in his Despatch, No. 175,* of the 16th of January 1854, that he would not avail himself of the concession made by the Court of Directors, as he strongly objected to a series of compulsory indentures.

* Page 1.

The result of this intimation and of subsequent correspondence was, that by the 53rd clause of our Immigration Ordinance the door was left open for the adoption of either course.

The Coolie may enter into indentures for the whole period of ten years, and then pay nothing for his return passage; or he may enter into indentures for five years only, and contribute towards the cost of his passage.

The determination of the question is, therefore, in the present temper of the Coolies, in the hands of Her Majesty's Government. They alone have caused the demand to be made upon the Coolie for money, and my own opinion is that the abandonment of it and the substitution of indentures throughout the term of ten years will be beneficial to the planters, and quite as much so to the Coolies themselves.

I have, &c.

Sir George Grey, Bart., &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 28.

No. 28.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 9.)

Government House, Georgetown, January 24, 1856.

(Received February 16, 1856.)

(Answered, No. 49, March 27, 1856, page 84.)

SIR,

I BEG to take this opportunity of making you acquainted with certain proceedings which have lately taken place here in respect to the question of immigration.

Notice having been given that a public meeting would be held for the purpose of taking the subject into consideration, the Court of Policy requested, on the motion of Mr. Porter, that I would furnish them with copies or the substance of any communication received from the authorities in England and India, "calculated to show by what circumstances this colony is now mainly "prevented from obtaining a sufficient supply of immigrant labourers from "India." And in reply I laid before the Court the memorandum of which a copy is enclosed.

Enclosure 1.

The meeting, which was very well attended, was held on the 21st instant, and eleven resolutions were unanimously carried, all setting forth the benefits which had been derived from immigration, and the anxiety of the colonists for its continuance, and especially pointing at the necessity for allowing private parties to import immigrants at their own expense, and under all necessary regulations.

Enclosure 2.

Much disappointment has naturally been created by the inadequacy of the supply likely to be sent from India in this season, and I have consequently at once availed myself of the permission conveyed by your Despatch, No. 11,* of the 14th December last, to offer the Coolies whose period of service expires this year, a bounty for remaining a further term of five years.

* Page 81.

The planters, however, while they readily avail themselves of the concession thus made, are in no degree less anxious for the continued introduction of new immigrants; and the opportunity was taken at the meeting of the 21st to obtain the signatures of nearly all present to a letter calling upon me to take steps at once for procuring a proper supply of immigrants in the next season.

So far as the provision of funds is involved, I have, on full consideration of the subject, no hesitation in recommending you to comply with their request to the extent of directing Mr. Caird to forward to Guiana any number, which, together with those which may be sent in this season, shall not exceed 3,500 in all. For I have already received applications from proprietors of estates for a supply to that extent, and those proprietors are therefore bound to take and to

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pay for them, in conformity with the provisions of the Ordnances No. 8 and No. 16, of 1855, the former of which has been confirmed, and the latter of which, I infer from your Despatch No. 11,* of the 14th ultimo, it is your intention to recommend for confirmation.

* Page 81.

It must not, however, be forgotten that our position will be very much changed, and that a different appropriation of our funds must be made, if Her Majesty's Government should sanction the importation of immigrants by private parties, and if that scheme should come into operation in the season of 1856–7.

And I have therefore, in conclusion, to beg that if you have not already sanctioned or do not intend to sanction private importation, you will be good enough at once to authorize Mr. Caird to procure the number mentioned above for the next season; but that if you have already authorized me to grant licences for private importation, you will refrain from acting on this Despatch until I shall have had an opportunity of addressing you after the receipt of that authority.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

Encl. 1 in No. 28.

Enclosure 1 in No. 28.

MEMORANDUM.

In compliance with the Resolution passed at the last meeting of this Honourable Court, requesting copies or the substance of any communication which may have been received "calculated to show by what circumstances this colony is now mainly prevented from obtaining a sufficient supply of immigrant labourers from India," I beg to take this occasion of submitting the following memorandum:

The difficulties in question may not inconveniently be divided into two principal classes, viz., those which, though very recently in existence, may now be regarded as removed; and, secondly, those still in operation, and most of which in a greater or less degree the colony may permanently have to contend against. The first class consists of two heads—

1. The refusal of Her Majesty's Government to guarantee, as before, the payment of the freight for immigrants to be hereafter introduced.

2. The demand made *by order of Her Majesty's Government* upon the Coolies for the payment of £35 towards the expense of their return passages.

The second class consists of four heads—

1. The difficulty of obtaining a proper proportion of female immigrants.

2. The abundant and probably increasing demand for labour in India.

3. The comparative unpopularity with the East Indian population of emigration to the West Indies.

4. The indisposition of Her Majesty's Government to permit the introduction of immigrants by private persons at their own expense and by their own means, though subject to Government control.

Class 1.—Head 1.—I notice this point not because I have had before me any proof that orders of Her Majesty's Government have worked prejudicially to the colony, but because I am aware that an impression to that effect has existed here, and am glad to be in a position to remove any uneasiness upon that score as regards our future operations.

On the 18th June 1855, the Under-Secretary of State wrote to the Land and Emigration Commissioners that they were to instruct the emigration agents in India, that, as the requisite funds for covering the cost of the introduction of the immigrants were not in their hands, "the charter-parties must distinctly lay down that the owners of vessels must look to the colony for their money, and that they (the agents) are on no account to make the Home Authorities responsible or liable for the sums that may become due to the owners."

On becoming acquainted with these instructions, and fearing that they might at least cause a loss to the colony, if not actually impede the introduction of the immigrants, I solicited a reconsideration of them at the hands of Her Majesty's Government, submitting that, on a former occasion, they had disclaimed the intention to insist upon an actual deposit of funds as a preliminary to engaging ships, and signified their readiness to be satisfied with a provision legally made by the Combined Court, guaranteeing the provision of the funds when actually required.

The result has been that, on the 24th October 1855, the Land and Emigration Commissioners were told, "the Secretary of State authorizes you to withdraw the special notice given to Mr. Caird, that the owners of vessels chartered by him must be expressly directed to look to the colony for the payment of their freights; and I am to instruct you that charter-parties entered into, either by yourselves or Mr. Caird, for the hire of Coolie ships in the approaching emigration season, may run in the same terms with regard to

payment as the charter-parties of previous seasons." And, on the 24th November last, the Secretary of State instructed me as follows—"I cannot too distinctly, however, explain to you that no pecuniary aid is intended to be granted from Imperial funds; that the present course has been adopted wholly in reliance on the good faith of the Colonial Government; and that Her Majesty's Government will look to you to justify that expectation by punctually remitting the sums requisite to enable Emigration Commissioners to discharge the obligations contracted by them or their agents for the service of the colony." I have no doubt that the Combined Court will, at all times, place me in a position to fulfil punctually the obligation here imposed upon me.

Class 1.—Head 2.—The Court will remember that when the Directors of the East India Company consented to the introduction of immigrants under an obligation of ten years' industrial, in other words indentured residence, the Duke of Newcastle, in his Despatch No. 175, of the 16th January 1854, stated his objections to such continued indentured service, and directed that the immigrant should be relieved from the obligation, and should be allowed to "take his place among the free labouring population of the colony" at the end of five years, on condition of contributing thirty-five dollars towards the cost of his return passage.

When our Ordinance of 1854 was passed, this proposed modification was still under the consideration of the East India Company; and our law, in so far as it dealt with this question, was very fortunately enacted in an alternative form—that is, it legalized both a system of indentures for ten years, and also one for the determination of them at the end of five years, at the option of the Governor General. The Government of India subsequently assented to the proposal of the Duke of Newcastle; and on the 20th November 1854, the emigration agent at Calcutta was instructed by the Land and Emigration Commissioners as follows:—"It will be your duty to make it clearly understood by Indian immigrants that back passages will not be given them unless they contribute themselves £35 towards the expense."

On the 7th April 1855, Mr. Caird wrote—"I am not at all sanguine of being able to furnish, in the ensuing season, a larger number of efficient labourers than what have been sent in the past season, particularly if the orders conveyed to me in your letter of the 20th November last are to be carried out, viz., that emigrants who may proceed in future to the West Indies shall be required to contribute £35 towards the expense of the return passage." On the 8th September 1855, Mr. Caird again expressed his apprehensions on this point, adding, "'The people are willing to engage for ten years' industrial residence, and at the expiration of that time to be entitled to a free passage back to India, but they decline most positively to contribute a farthing towards their back passage." On the receipt of this intelligence I ventured, on the 8th December last, to point out to the Secretary of State that this difficulty had originated entirely with Her Majesty's Government, inasmuch as the Government of India, the planters of this colony, and the Coolies themselves were all willing to adopt the plan of ten years' industrial residence and free return passages—a plan better calculated, in my opinion, to promote the interests of both parties.

Mr. Caird, however, wrote again on the 22d September last, "I regret to say that the people generally reject the proposition with the most determined resistance. I have, therefore, not deemed it expedient to press this measure any further for the present. If I had done so, I am of opinion that it would have stopped emigration altogether; and until I am in receipt of further instructions from you on this point, (which if dispatched on the 9th November, will reach me on the 15th of the following month,) I shall continue to engage people on the same conditions as those of last year." The Secretary of State has informed me by a despatch of the 3rd December last, that "As it seems evident that the agent could have obtained no emigrants if he had insisted on those terms, the course he took appears to have been quite right and entitled to approval." We may, therefore, look upon this obstacle as finally removed.

Class 2.—Head 1.—At the opening of the annual session of the Combined Court for 1855, I acquainted them that Her Majesty's Government had determined to insist upon the introduction of a greater proportion of females as a condition of the continuance of immigration; and the Court unreservedly expressed its approval of that view. It was to be expected that this decision, however right and necessary in itself, would permanently increase the difficulty and expense of obtaining labour from abroad; and accordingly we find Mr. Caird writing on the 7th April 1855, "With regard to increasing the proportion of female immigrants, I beg to say that 18 per cent. have embarked with the Coolies in the past season, and that every exertion was made and no expense spared to obtain a greater number, but without effect. I had considerable difficulty in securing those who went. And on the 8th September 1855, he again writes, "And the large proportion of females now required to be sent in each ship, makes it more difficult than ever to obtain *efficient labourers* with their families for the West India Colonies."

In the "Canning," now expected, there have embarked 212 men, 76 women, 15 boys, 9 girls, and 8 infants.

Class 2.—Head 2.—On the 22nd September 1855, Mr. Caird wrote,—"2nd, under any circumstances, a very limited number only can be forwarded on during the next five months, as the demand for every description of labourer is daily increasing, owing to the Government requiring very large numbers on the public works which are now in progress; and, in addition to this demand, the railroad, which runs through the very centre of the

BRITISH GUIANA.

districts from whence the best labourers are procurable, takes away many who would otherwise have come on to me."

Class 2.—Head 3.—This is perhaps the most serious feature of the whole case.

Writing on the 7th April 1855, Mr. Caird says, "In reply I would beg leave to draw the attention of the Board to my letters noted in the margin (5th December 1853; 18th April 1854; 4th September 1854; 8th January 1855, with enclosure), in which I have endeavoured to explain the various causes which combine to make the West India immigration anything but popular with the natives of this country, and therefore my utter inability to forward on an unlimited number of efficient labourers in any one season to the West Indies." The communications here referred were forwarded to me. The three first report the reluctance of the Coolies to enter into engagements for the extended period of ten years; and in one of them, that of the 18th April 1854, he states, "I had also hopes in the beginning of the season of obtaining a number of Coolies through the agency of men who had come back from the West Indies; but they also failed me, and I am inclined to think, that had the reports which return men circulated through the districts from which the Coolies are drawn been more tempting, that a number of people would have come down of their own accord unassisted." A similar representation is made in his letter of the 6th January 1855, in which he says, "The men who have come back from British Guiana will not assist me in the slightest degree in obtaining fresh emigrants, but on the contrary they deter others from going by the accounts which they have spread against the colony; and the number who abscond daily from the depôt, after having been fed for days together, is very considerable." And again, on the 22d September 1855, he writes, "And what still adds more to my difficulties is, that I receive no assistance whatever from men who have returned from the West Indies, in consequence of their reports being unfavourable, whereas the reports circulated by men who come back from Mauritius induce large numbers of people to emigrate; and the consequence is that the emigration to that colony is daily becoming more popular and attractive, whilst that to the West Indies is looked upon by the people here with increased suspicion and distrust.

These observations are deserving of the utmost attention. We cannot expect that the inhabitants of the East Indies will ever regard a removal to this side of the globe with the same favour as a visit to the Mauritius, but we may hope to render employment in this colony more popular with the East Indians than it now appears to be. To this end I would advise the most scrupulous justice on the part of employers in their dealings with the Coolies, in respect to the rates of wages and to every other pecuniary transaction; also the provision in the hospital of every needful medicine and comfort, and the remuneration of medical men in charge of estates upon a scale sufficiently liberal to place them beyond the temptation to undertake a greater extent of duty than they can possibly perform efficiently. Also a due provision of intelligent and trustworthy interpreters for the Courts of Justice and for general purposes. And, above all, the steady exhibition on the part of those in actual charge of estates of a kindly attention to the feelings of the immigrants, and a readiness to promote their wishes as far as reasonable.

Class 2.—Head 4.—Upon this point a misconception has, I think, grown up in the minds of the public here, with regard to the part taken by Her Majesty's Government. It seems to have been held, that because they assented to an Ordinance legalizing the introduction of immigrants by private persons, therefore they were bound to grant permission at once for their introduction accordingly. But a reference to the debates in this Court, when the Ordinance was under discussion, will show that the exercise of a discretion on their part was clearly contemplated; and, indeed, when the Ordinance had been submitted for confirmation, Sir George Grey in his Despatch No. 33, of the 13th September 1854, wrote—"The sanction thus given to the importation of Asiatics and Africans by private parties is by no means free from objection; but, agreeing with you in opinion, that the dangers which might be apprehended are sufficiently guarded against by requiring the concurrence of the Governor to such importation, I do not propose to call for any amendment of the first of these clauses. You will, however, understand that you are not at liberty to issue any such licence, or to authorize such contracts of service with Indians or Africans, unless in pursuance of some scheme of immigration to which you shall first have obtained the consent of the Home Government."

No change has since been made in our arrangements; but on the 25th September last I wrote to the Secretary of State as follows:—"I am so fully sensible of the extent to which I have on various occasions trespassed on the attention of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the question of immigration to this Colony, that nothing but a conviction of its vital importance, and a sense of the obligation resting upon me to leave no effort untried for promoting it, would induce me now to addres you on the subject. * * * * * * A strong impression prevails in the minds of the planters generally, and particularly of those of large capital, that they could, if permitted, introduce into the Colony by their private exertions a larger number of immigrants than are now obtainable, and those at a less expensive rate. I shall not offer any opinion upon the soundness of these views, as you will be able to obtain accurate information upon all points from commercial gentlemen at home; but I trust it will be admitted, that if rules can by any means be framed under which private importation can be conducted in an unobjectionable manner, there will be no good reason for refusing to sanction the attempt. I therefore hope you will be good enough to take this subject into early

consideration and favour me with a statement of the terms upon which Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to sanction the issue of licences for the introduction of Indians and Chinese, in order that I may be enabled to ascertain whether it would be in the power of the planters to comply with them."

To this Despatch no reply has yet been received; but the delay will not be matter of surprise, if it be borne in mind that the decease of the late Secretary of State took place in the middle of October, and that the appointment of the present Secretary of State took place in the middle of November.

For my own part, I shall regret if Her Majesty's Government find it their duty to resist my recommendation; for I must confess that the difficulties which have been shown to exist are such as cannot easily be overcome except by private enterprise. Mr. Caird appears to have used his best endeavours to procure labourers for the Colony; but it is evident that in order to be successful an outlay must be incurred, uncertain in its objects and in its amount, for which a public officer cannot easily be made responsible.

I hope that I have now clearly set before the Court the difficulties which actually beset the question, and shall readily co-operate with them in any efforts for their removal.

January 12, 1856. (Signed) P. E. Wodehouse.

Enclosure 2 in No. 28. Encl. 2 in No. 28.

Resolutions adopted at a Public Meeting for Promotion of Immigration, Monday, 21st January 1856.

On the motion of Mr. Macrae, Peter Rose, Esq., was called upon to preside.

The Chairman having read the advertisement convening the meeting, said the subject was one which required little to be said in its favour, as every man in the colony, and much more every person in that room, was interested in it. The following resolutions were proposed and carried unanimously:—

It was moved by A. Macrae, Esq., and seconded by J. H. King, Esq.,

"That it is the opinion of this meeting, that without the supply of labour hitherto "afforded by immigration from Madeira, India, Africa, and China, this colony could not "have maintained the production of its staple exports; that a cessation of or decline in "its productive industry could have no other than a retrogressive effect upon the "labouring population, and that for these reasons, and many others, a continued influx of "agricultural labourers is essential to the future welfare and prosperity of all classes of "the community."

The Honourable T. Porter moved the next resolution, which was seconded by H. S. Bascomb, Esquire:—

"That British Guiana can materially assist in maintaining an abundant supply of sugar "to the United Kingdom, if relieved from some of the existing restrictions which "prevent her from obtaining an adequate supply of labour; for, notwithstanding the "admission of all foreign sugar into Great Britain and Ireland on equal terms with "that produced in the British colonies, the continued low prices which have prevailed "(until within a very late period) since the year 1850, and the large annual expenditure "of £812,159, which British Guiana has defrayed entirely out of her own resources, she "has, by means of immigration, been enabled to increase her exports of sugar to the "United Kingdom from 34,199 hhds., the low point to which reduced in 1841 after the "expiration of the apprenticeship, to 55,366 hhds., equal to 41,500 tons, exported in "1855."

Duncan Macdonald, Esq., moved, and William Alty, Esq., seconded, the third resolution:—

"That the production of sugar from the estates in this colony, in cultivation, can be "largely increased by an additional outlay of capital; that, in fact, the colony, from those "estates alone, could export from 80 to 100,000 tons of sugar, annually, if they were "allowed to obtain an adequate supply of labour."

The Hon. John Gordon moved the fourth resolution, which was seconded by F. A. R. Winter, Esq.:—

"That in consequence of the fertility of soil and favourable climate of British "Guiana, the labourer quickly acquires an independence, thereby rendering necessary a "continued stream of immigration, to enable the colony to maintain its present exports, "as well as to develope its other rich and varied resources, the value and importance of "which is attested by the high rank assigned to many of its natural productions at the "Great Exhibition held in London in 1851, and more recently at the Industrial Exhibition "in Paris."

Wm. Bruce Ferguson, Esq., moved, and the Hon. J. E. Roney seconded, the fifth resolution:—

"That immigration not only enables British Guiana to assist in maintaining an "abundant supply of sugar in the United Kingdom at a low price, but also proves "beneficial to the colonists in general, and to immigrants in particular, as is shown from "the following facts:—That the Indian immigrants who have returned to their native "country have invariably carried along with them large sums of money. The emigrants "by the last vessel, the 'Sandford,' which sailed for Calcutta, November 1854, with 240,

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" Coolies, men, women, and children, having deposited in the hands of the master the " sum of $21,312 0, or about 4,500*l.*, besides a considerable amount of bullion in the " shape of ornaments; while the abundant means at the disposal of the immigrants may " be also deduced from the circumstance that there is at the present time $39,283 " deposited in the savings bank by Indian immigrants, and that there were most liberal " subscriptions from the immigrants generally included in the 4,541*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, contributed " by British Guiana to the Royal Patriotic Fund."

The Hon. R. Smith moved, and E. Borman, Esq., seconded, the sixth resolution:—

" That from information laid before the Honourable Court of Policy, by his Excellency " the Governor, it appears that only two vessels have been taken up for the conveyance " from India of about 600 Coolies to this colony, during the season, instead of 3,000 " applied for; and as the want of labour continues in full force, it becomes evident that " private enterprise and capital should be allowed to come in aid of the small and " insufficient supply afforded by the present system."

R. J. Kelly, Esq., proposed the seventh resolution, which was seconded by D. Macdonald, Esq.:—

" That as the experience of the colonists of immigration from the West coast of Africa " has been always of the most favourable nature, both as regards the immigrants and " the employers—as during its continuance it was carried on in a manner satisfactory to " Her Majesty's Government, according to an admission made by the late colonial " minister, the Duke of Newcastle, in his Despatch to the Governor of British Guiana, " dated 12th January 1854—as the committee of the House of Commons, of which " Mr. Hutt was chairman, reported in favour of a continuance of the immigration of the " people of Africa to the West Indian colonies—considering, moreover, the proximity of " that continent, the adaptability of the constitution of its inhabitants to the climate of " British Guiana, and the advantages which they are certain to derive from being brought, " by removal to this colony, within the influence of educational and religious training— " this meeting is of opinion that the resumption of African immigration is highly " desirable, and that its expediency ought to be brought, in the strongest manner, before " Her Majesty's Government."

The Hon. G. J. Luckie moved, S. A. Harvey, Esq., seconded, the eighth resolution:—

" That a memorial to Her Majesty's Government be drawn up, setting forth the sub- " stance contained in the preceding resolutions; and praying, 1stly, That Her Majesty's " Government will allow his Excellency the Governor to give effect to clauses Nos. 5 and " 13, of Ordinance No. 7, of 1854, by granting licences to private persons to import " labourers from India and China on their own account, under proper Government " supervision. 2ndly, That Her Majesty's Government will remove all restrictions on the " free importation of labourers from China, placing them on the same footing as Portuguese " labourers from Madeira, and allowing them to enter into contracts for the same period " as is now allowed to the Coolie labourer from India."

J. Lane, Esq., moved, and F. W. Whitney, Esq., seconded, the ninth resolution:—

" That the thanks of this meeting be given to his Excellency the Governor, for the " steps he has already taken in the removal of difficulties hitherto existing in the way of " immigration; and that he be requested to continue his valuable exertions in assisting " the colony to procure, from all available sources, a free and unrestricted immigration of " labour."

John Jones, Esq., moved, and Richard Henderson, Esq., seconded, the tenth resolution:—

" That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to the following gentlemen " connected with the colony, and that they be requested to use their influence in promoting " the objects of this meeting:—

London.

James Cavan, Esquire.	Jno. Evan Baillie, Esquire.	George Rainey, Esquire.
John Stewart, „	John Torrence, „	B. Dobie, „
Charles M'Garel, „	Col. Warren, „	Chauncey, „
Andrew Colville, „	Charles Cave, „	Du Buisson, „
John Kingston, „	W. J. Higgins, „	C. Eversly, „
J. B. Smith, „	Steven Cave, jun. „	Wm. Brand, „
Thos. Naghten, „	Jonathan Hopkinson, „	Hon. Grantley Berkeley.
Thos. D. Hill, „	Crawford D. Kerr, „	Sir James Kingston.
Henry Bruce, „	Wm. Burnett, „	Gavin Fullarton, Esquire.
William King, „	Thos. Nimmo, „	Jno. Bosanquet, „
David J. Luckie, „	P. M. Watson „	Col. Stafford Blair.

Liverpool.

John Moss, Esquire.	Wm. Hy. Jones, Esquire.	Harold Littledale, Esquire.
W. R. Sandbach, Esquire.	Thomas Bouch, „	Chas. S. Parker, „
J. Tinne, „	Thomas Murray, „	Thos. Bankier, „
Geo. Booker, „	Francis Shand, „	Peter Duff, „
Matthew Steele, „	Josias Booker, „	Wm. Fraser (Helena).
Geo. Loxdale, „		

Bristol.

H. Bridges, Esquire.	G. A. Ames, Esquire.	Wm. Beloe, Esquire.

Glasgow.

Humphry E. C. Ewing, Esq.	Thomas Smith, Esquire.	John Ramsey, Esquire.
Alex. Crum Ewing, Esquire.	Jas. Alexander, „	Walter Gray, „
Mungo Campbell, „	Jno. M'Kie, jun. „	H. B. Irving, „
Boyd Alexander, „	Jno. Reid, jun. „	John Ronald, „
Gavin Fullarton, „	James Lade, „	W. and A. M'Oule and Co.
Wm. Connal, „		

Greenock.

H. F. Templeman, Esquire.	Alex. Thompson, Esquire.	Alex. M'Laren, Esquire.

R. G. Butts, Esq., moved the eleventh resolution, which was seconded by F. W. Whitney, Esq.:—

"That the following gentlemen be requested to draw up the memorial, and to present "it on behalf of this meeting to his Excellency the Governor:—Peter Rose, Esq. "(Chairman), Honourables James E. Roney, Thos. Porter, jun., Robt. Smith, and G. F. "Luckie and W. B. Ferguson, Esqs."

No. 29. No. 29.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 10.) Government House, Georgetown, January 25, 1856.
(Received February 16, 1856.)
(Answered, No. 52, March 28, 1856, page 87.)

SIR,

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 9,* of yesterday's date, I beg to enclose a memorial from the inhabitants of the country of Berbice, praying that permission may be given for the introduction of immigrants by private parties. * Page 183.

Enclosure.

These gentlemen also ask that the ships bringing Coolies for their country may be sent to the port of New Amsterdam; but while the supply continues as deficient as it at present is, I cannot, with a due regard to the general wants of the whole colony, recommend a compliance with that part of their memorial.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

Enclosure in No. 27. Encl. in No. 29.

To the Right Honourable Henry Labouchere, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Memorial of the Inhabitants of the County of Berbice, British Guiana,

Respectfully sheweth,

THAT the well-doing of this colony depends almost entirely on the importation of labour from other places, which for some years past has been carried on to the benefit of all parties concerned; the crops of the colony have increased, the owners of estates were beginning to hope to receive some revenue, the trade of the merchants was improving, and the immigrants themselves were thriving and contented. Those who returned to India carried back with them considerable earnings, and in many cases have come back a second time to the colony, bringing their friends with them.

That the cost of this immigration is very heavy, but being of vital importance to the existence of the colony all classes have submitted cheerfully to be taxed for its maintenance, the planters, as was thought fair, bearing the largest proportion of the burden.

That every arrangement having been made by your memorialists for the continuance of this importation of labour, and every wish of the Home Government complied with, your memorialists are not a little disappointed and alarmed to find that this year the usual supply of immigrants is not forthcoming, and instead of three or four thousand Coolies being on their way here, only as many hundreds have been sent.

Your memorialists are not informed precisely of the cause of this, and the arrangements not being in their own hands they cannot apply any remedy; but the loss, and injury to them threatens to be so serious, that they cannot refrain from bringing the matter to the notice of Government, in the hope that such measures will be adopted as will ensure to this colony a regular and steady supply of immigrants, to the extent of four or five thousand people per annum, the expense of which your memorialists are prepared to pay.

There is one point which your memorialists would wish specially to draw your attention to, and that is that the law, as it at present stands, sanctions the sending of ships by private individuals for the purpose of bringing labourers for their own estates, subject to certain regulations. Of this permission your memorialists would gladly avail themselves, and have reason to believe that they could effect the transportation of Coolies on better terms than by the present mode of chartering ships; but unfortunately the law has hitherto been quite inoperative, as the necessary licence has been withheld by Government, and the management of the transport service confined to the Land and Emigration Commissioners, who appear to have a difficulty in procuring ships, possibly from not being able to guarantee a homeward cargo from this colony, which your memorialists would be able to do, having the produce of their estates to send home to England.

To this point your memorialists beg particular attention, and feel confident that Her Majesty's Government will grant them such reasonable redress as they have a right to look for.

Your memorialists therefore humbly pray,

That the emigration of Coolie labourers from India may be so regulated as to secure a constant influx of people to British Guiana, and that the portion allotted to the county of Berbice be sent to the port of New Amsterdam, and that licences be granted to private individuals to send their own ships, as the law directs, and your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Here follow 143 signatures.)

County of Berbice, January 14, 1856.

No. 30.

No. 30.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 13.) Government House, Georgetown, January 26, 1856.

(Received February 16, 1856.)

SIR,

SINCE my Despatches Nos. 9* and 10† of the 24th and 25th instant were written I have received, not I confess without much disappointment, your Despatch No. 15‡ of the 31st December, extinguishing all hope that the importation of immigrants by private parties will be permitted, at any rate during the next season of 1856–7.

* Page 183.
† Page 189.
‡ Page 82.

As regards the Chinese I have never been without apprehension that political considerations, arising out of our peculiar relations with that country, would prove impediments to private undertakings for obtaining labourers from that country; but in the case of Indian immigration I had come to entertain a strong hope (founded in some degree on private intelligence received from England) that Her Majesty's Government would be willing to make some concessions to the colonists. It appeared to me that the Home Government and the Government of India possessed such an unlimited power of controlling and regulating any private speculations of this nature, that they might without danger have relaxed some of the existing restrictions. And I cannot but regret that your Despatch only adverts generally to evils which existed many years ago, and does not point out the particular mischiefs apprehended, in order that I might have been enabled, in communication with the planters, to submit for your approval some precautionary arrangements.

As, however, no change can now be made before the season of 1857–8, I hope you will permit me to ask for the earliest practicable communication in detail of the views which may be taken by Her Majesty's Government after the receipt of the information called for from India.

I feel sure that the planters will submit to any reasonable rules for the government of their private undertakings of this nature, and I must confess that I cannot see how we can hope for a continuance of Indian immigration, in the face of the difficulties and competition described by Mr. Caird, except at private risk and by private speculation. Mr. Caird in a letter of July last mentions his having offered a reward of a certain number of rupees for each

emigrant that might be brought to him for the West Indies, and I have no doubt that he acted wisely in so doing. But at the same time it cannot be denied that negotiations of such a kind can most properly be conducted by private individuals. One Coolie may be induced to emigrate for five rupees, another perhaps for not less than double that sum, and private speculations alone can decide on the spot how much it may be profitable to expend in a manner of which it must be extremely difficult for a public servant to render a formal account.

* * * * * * * *

In conclusion, I have to beg that Mr. Caird may be instructed to take every step in his power to procure at least the balance of those applied for in 1855–6; and knowing that we must hold out some direct benefit to induce the Coolie to come here, rather than to go to the Mauritius, or to take employment at home, I would suggest that Mr. Caird be authorized even to add to the amount of the reward offered in the last season, especially for women, upon the understanding that the outlay can be met, like that already incurred for the same purpose, out of the balance of the Guaranteed Loan in the hands of the Land and Emigration Commissioners.

I am, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 31.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 18.)

Government House, Georgetown, February 28, 1856.

(Received April 1, 1856.)

Sir,

I beg leave to acknowledge your Despatch No. 24* of the 16th January, conveying the refusal of the Lords of the Treasury to guarantee the proposed new loan for immigration to this colony, and their apprehension that I am not sufficiently impressed with the necessity of confining the expenditure of the colony within such limits as may allow of its being provided for without the intervention of the Imperial Government.

* Page 82.

I think that the various communications which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Government, and the unvarying efforts which I have made to restrict the colonial expenditure, will justify me in assuming that it is not intended to charge me with general want of economy, but rather with too freely applying for the guarantee of the Home Government, for the express purpose of reducing the charge to the colony, that is to say, with undervaluing the theoretical responsibility of the Home Government for the ultimate payment of the debt.

These applications on my part for assistance have undoubtedly originated in some degree in opinions as to the previous mismanagement in years long gone by of the emancipation, sugar, and labour questions in the West Indies, opinions founded long before I had visited this side of the globe, and strengthened by what I have since seen. It is hardly necessary for me to add, however, that I shall abstain from again obtruding them upon Her Majesty's Government.

* * * * * *

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 32.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 31.)

Government House, Georgetown, March 18, 1856.

(Received April 14, 1856.)

(Answered, No. 90, June 9, 1856, p. 91.)

Sir,

In my Despatch No. 9,† of the 24th January last, I begged that the emigration agent at Calcutta might be instructed to make arrangements in

† Page 183.

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good time for sending to Guiana in the season of 1856–7 whatever number out of the 3,500 Coolies previously applied for he might not have been able to procure in 1855–6. At that time I had not received any applications on account of the season of 1856–7, but they have since come in to the number of 2,125, making a total for the two seasons of 5,625, of which not more than 600 have been sent to us.

I cannot hope that the balance will be procured in the next season, but I sincerely trust that no pains will be spared to procure a large number, and would beg permission again to call attention to the question of obtaining some from Madras.

* Page 74. Lord John Russell informed me in his Despatch No. 29,* of the 29th June last, that he had ordered the attempt to be made, but I have since heard nothing more upon the subject, and I can assure you that it would prove a great benefit to the colony if we could now get even a small number of Madras labourers, inasmuch as those already here do not like to see the cessation of the introduction of their countrymen.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 33.

No. 33.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 39.)

Government House, Georgetown, April 8, 1856.

(Received May 1, 1856.)

(Answered, No. 148, September 19, 1856, page 95.)

SIR,

† Page 183. Enclosure. WITH reference to my Despatch No. 9,† of the 24th January last, I have now the honour to forward the memorial of the planters, merchants, and others of this colony, praying that you will be pleased to permit the introduction of immigrants by private parties; that you will allow contracts to be entered into with Chinese labourers for the same period as with Indian immigrants; and also that immigrants may again be introduced from Africa.

You will observe that the memorial is signed by a very large proportion of the persons of consideration in the colony; and I shall only add, that I have been again requested to solicit most earnestly the renewal of emigration from Madras, which it is supposed could be effected without difficulty, as the French in the West Indies are importing Coolies from Pondicherry, most of whom probably come from our territory.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

‡ Page 83. P.S. Since the above was written, I have had the satisfaction of receiving your Despatch No. 41,‡ of the 14th March, from which it appears that there is a fair prospect of our obtaining immigrants from Madras.

Encl. in No. 33.

Enclosure in No. 33.

To the Right Honourable Henry Labouchere, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Memorial of the undersigned Planters, Merchants, and other Inhabitants of the Colony of British Guiana,

Respectfully sheweth,

THAT the industry of this colony and the production of its staple exports have been maintained during the last fifteen years by the immigration of agricultural labourers from Madeira, India, Africa, and China; and that without such immigration the industry of the colony must have declined, and its labouring population retrograded to a considerable extent.

That if relieved from the restrictions which at present prevent this colony from obtaining an adequate supply of immigrant labour, it would, from its own resources, at once provide such labour, and thereby not only maintain its present position, but would also increase its export of sugar and other valuable products to the United Kingdom, and its

import of British manufactures to a very great extent, notwithstanding the great competition to which it is subjected by the admission of all foreign sugar, and the low price at which it is required by the consumer in the United Kingdom.

That the constant importation of immigrant labour would not be required were it not that the labourer so quickly becomes independent, and attains to such a degree of prosperity and comfort as to indispose him to agricultural labour.

That in consequence of the small number of immigrants expected from India this season, and the large number entitled to a return passage, your memorialists see no prospect of adding to their supply of labour than by the permission being accorded to them of importing immigrant labourers from India and other countries by private enterprise, and with that view they strongly urge Her Majesty's Government to allow his Excellency the Governor of this colony to carry out the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance, No. 7 of 1854, particularly Clauses Nos. 5 and 13, by permitting him to issue licences to private parties under those clauses, and also by issuing from the Colonial Office in London similar licences to such parties as may be desirous of importing immigrant labourers at their own cost.

Your memorialists further urge Her Majesty's Government to allow contracts with Chinese labourers to be entered into for ten years, under similar regulations to those now required for Indian immigrant labourers.

Lastly, your memorialists would impress on Her Majesty's Government the benefits acquired by African labourers on being brought to this colony, besides being raised from barbarism to a state of civilization, and hope that such immigration will again be resumed with the least possible delay.

Your memorialists respectfully annex a copy of resolutions* passed at a public meeting, held in Georgetown on Monday the 21st January, 1856, and pray that Her Majesty's Government will take the case into their earnest consideration. * Vide page 187.

(Signed) H. MURRAY,
And 523 others.

No. 34.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 51.)

Government House, Georgetown,
April 28, 1856.
(Received June 5, 1856.)
(Answered, No. 100, July 1, 1856, page 91.)

SIR,

WITH reference to the concluding paragraph of your Despatch No. 50,† of the 27th March last, I hope you will pardon my asking whether you consider further legislation absolutely necessary for the purpose of giving effect to the arrangement now proposed. † Page 85.

The provisoes to be found in the latter part of the 53rd Section of the Ordinance, No. 7 of 1854, were inserted in conformity with the suggestions contained in the 11th paragraph of Sir George Grey's Despatch No. 33,‡ of the 13th September 1854; and in anticipation of a possible failure of the scheme under which the Coolie was to be required to pay for part of the cost of his back passage. ‡ Page 54.

And as the provisoes hold out to him the same alternatives as those suggested by you, I am inclined to hope that you will not think it necessary to insist upon an alteration of the Ordinance in this respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c.

No. 35.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 52.)

Government House, Georgetown,
April 28, 1856.
(Received June 5, 1856.)
(Answered, No. 104, July 21, 1856, page 92.)

SIR,

I BEG leave to acknowledge your circular Despatch § of the 19th March last, explaining the decision at which Her Majesty's Government have arrived on the question of the progressive proportion of female to male Indian immigrants for the next three seasons; and to acquaint you, that until further § Page 84.

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instructed I shall abstain from making it public, as I confess that I do not quite understand the bearing of the scheme. It is clear that in the first season no more than three males may be introduced for each female. But what is the meaning of the direction that in the second season the number of males must not exceed three times the number of females introduced in the first season. We will suppose that in the *first* season 1,500 males and 500 females will be introduced. Then I apprehend that you will not be prepared to allow the introduction in the second season of 1,500 more males, without any more females, merely because 500 of the latter were introduced in the previous year. But then, on the other hand, supposing that the males of the second season brought with them more than the requisite proportion of females, where would be the necessity for limiting the total introduction of males in the second season to 1,500, merely because only 500 females had been introduced in the previous year?

A similar question presents itself as to the third season; and I hope you will excuse my begging for explanation.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 36.

No. 36.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, dated.

(No. 53.)

Government House, Georgetown, April 28th, 1856.

(Received June 5, 1856.)

SIR,

(Answered, No. 93, June 26, 1856, page 91.)

YOU will, I hope, admit that it is not always possible for a person in such a position as that in which I am placed when dealing with questions upon which great differences of opinion and strong feelings have existed for several years, to avoid falling into the use of language which may not be perfectly acceptable in all quarters. And you will not deny the pressure to which the Governor of this Colony is at all times subjected when any impediment of importance presents itself to continued immigration.

At the time at which the papers in question were written, much disappointment existed at the comparative failure of the supply of immigrants for the year; and I do not deny that in endeavouring to allay the irritation on that score, and to encourage the planters to look forward with better hope to the season of 1856-7, I may have applied to the past acts of Her Majesty's Government terms which, with more consideration, I should have rendered less offensive in your eyes. Certainly I was dealing with the circumstances which immediately impeded free immigation, and among them the most prominent was the demand made upon the Coolies for contribution towards the expense of the back-passages. For Mr. Caird wrote, on the 8th September, 1855, "the people are willing to engage for ten years industrial residence, and at the expiration of that time to be entitled to a free passage back to India, but they decline most positively to contribute a farthing towards the back passage.

I do not pretend to be ignorant that at previous periods in the history of immigration the planters had endeavoured to escape from some of the expense of the back passages; but I was thinking and speaking then of the arrangements with which I had myself had to deal, and in the course of which the difficulties had been encountered. I had found the Government of India, the planters, and the Coolies all consentient to one plan, and the Secretary of State alone proposing another. That other, as Mr. Caird represented, had stopped the emigration; and on his reporting that he had abandoned it, I was informed by you on the 3rd December that the course he took appeared "to have been quite right and entitled to approval."

I will beg you, therefore, to believe that when writing both my Despatches and the Memorandum for the Court of Policy, I was thinking much more of the benefits likely to arise from the abandonment of the plan in future seasons, than of fixing blame for the past in any quarter. Above all, I think I scarcely

deserve to have had addressed to me the last paragraph of your confidential Despatch, in which you state, "You have been placed by the Crown in the Government of British Guiana for the purpose of giving effect to the views of Her Majesty's Government, and this object must be defeated if you permit yourself to announce your disapprobation of the proceedings of Her Majesty's Government to public bodies whose cheerful adoption of them it is your duty to promote to the best of your ability."

I am not conscious of ever having done so, and certainly in this instance I could not suppose it to be my duty to promote the cheerful adoption of proceedings, the abandonment of which by Mr. Caird had been, as I was then already informed, fully approved of.

Having thus accounted for my conduct in these matters, I can only repeat my regret that I should have given you offence, and endeavour to avoid doing so for the future.

No. 37.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 61.)

Government House, Georgetown, May 23, 1856.

(Received June 18, 1856.)

(Answered, No. 108, July 26, 1856, page 93.)

Sir,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration resolutions passed by the Combined Court, remonstrating against the limited number of Coolies permitted to be carried by vessels in proportion to their tonnage; and urging that the introduction of immigrants by private parties may be allowed.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

Enclosure in No. 37.

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, combined with the Financial Representatives of the Inhabitants of the said Colony, at its Annual Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Thursday, May 15, 1856.

Honourable Thomas Porter moved the resolutions of which he gave notice yesterday relative to immigration, seconded by the financial representative, E. J. Henry.

1. Resolved, that in the opinion of this Court unnecessary expense is entailed on this colony by the limited number of East India immigrants which each vessel is allowed to bring here in proportion to its tonnage, inasmuch as by an arrangement which has been made by Mr. Caird, the agent in India, and the Land and Emigration Commissioners in England, a vessel of 1,200 tons is only allowed to bring 350 Coolies to this colony, although in the East Indian Passengers Act a space of 12 superficial feet is stated to be sufficient for each adult; and a smaller space even than this is allotted to immigrants coming from the East Indies to neighbouring foreign colonies, without any disadvantage or prejudice to the health of the immigrant himself.

2. That, in the opinion of this Court, it is highly inexpedient and unjust that any restrictions which are in excess of those sanctioned by the Indian Legislature should be imposed on the introduction of immigrants into this colony.

3. That it would be very advantageous if contracts were entered into with responsible parties for the introduction of a stated number of immigrants annually, and that it would conduce greatly to the interests of this colony if permission were granted to private parties to introduce immigrants in their own ships, whilst the health and comfort of the immigrant himself would be fully as well attended to as it is under the present system.

That this Court respectfully requests his Excellency the Governor to bring the subject of the foregoing resolutions under the notice of Her Majesty's Government, and that he be further requested to use his best influence to get the various restrictions which are complained of removed.

Resolutions agreed to.

True Extract.

(Signed) W. Walker,
Secretary.

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No. 38.

No. 38.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 72.)

Government House, Georgetown, June 9, 1856.

Sir, (Received June 30, 1856.)

I have the honour to forward the reports of the immigration agent-general, and of the health officer, upon the "Devonshire," lately arrived with immigrants from Madras.

Enclosure.

It is very satisfactory that the first attempt at the revival of immigration from Madras should have been so successful, and I hope you will be good enough to call the attention of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to the remarks of Mr. Austin, and likewise to inform Mr. Thomson that the colonists look with confidence to the results of his exertions in the coming season, especially as the rates of freight have fallen so materially.

I shall be glad to receive the earliest practicable intelligence of the number of Coolies likely to be sent, either by Mr. Caird or by Mr. Thomson; and would suggest that they should keep each other informed of their respective prospects, in order that any deficiency of supply in one Presidency may, if possible, be made good from the other.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

Enclosure in No. 38.

Encl. in No. 38.

(No. 472.)

British Guiana.

Immigration Agent-General's Office, June 9, 1856.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the arrival on the 5th of this month of the ship "Devonshire," after a passage of 97 days from Madras, with 211 men, 88 women, 33 boys, 19 girls, 8 infants, or a total of 359 souls, equal to 224 adults.

Notwithstanding the prevalence of small pox, the mortality during the voyage has been comparatively light, say, from small pox, seven deaths; dysentery, two; debility (infant), two deaths. I have no doubt but that the free ventilation of the ship from the large side ports has exercised a very favourable influence on the health of the immigrants, and I would strongly urge on the Land and Emigration Commissioners the advantage of giving the preference, as far as possible, to vessels of a similar build to the "Devonshire."

His Excellency the Governor will be glad to learn that as *yet* we have sent no patients to the colonial hospital, and that the immigrants are in general appearance healthy and robust, betokening a careful selection on the part of the emigration agent at Madras, and bidding fair to remove the unfavourable impression which has generally prevailed in the colony in regard to Madras labourers.

I have, &c.

The Honourable Wm. Walker, &c. &c. (Signed) J. J. Austin, Immigration Agent-General.

I perceive that Dr. Brooks has not included a girl of 9 years, omitted in Mr. Thomson's list.

J. J. A.

No. 39.

No. 39.

Extract of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, forwarding the Estimates and Tax Ordinance for the Year 1856, dated Government House, Georgetown, June 23, 1856. (Received July 18, 1856.)

Enclosure 1.

(No. 83.)

In the estimate under the head of "Immigration" there will be found a vote of $15,000 for the passage money of immigrants from Madeira and other places," and under the head "new items," another vote of $20,000 "for the

passage money of immigrants from Madeira and other places, to provide for advances to be made on account of those proprietors of plantations who engage the services, under indenture, of such immigrants."

You will be aware, from the tenor of the communications which I have addressed to the Colonial Department, that almost from the time of my arrival in the colony I have been endeavouring to give practical operation to the principle that the employers of labour ought themselves to pay for the introduction of it, and that the colony ought no longer to be subjected to fresh charges for importing immigrants.

The first step made in this direction was that of requiring the planters to pay for the future the sum of $50 for each Indian immigrant. It is true that up to the present moment the cost of their introduction has, from the high rates of freight prevailing during the war, much exceeded that sum; but, already, contracts have been obtained by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners for the next season, at rates little above $50 per head, and there is reason to hope that vessels may soon be engaged upon even more favorable terms. This step was followed by that of proposing to the planters, with your sanction, that they should offer $50 to Coolies entitled to back passages, and who might be willing to serve another five years under indenture. This proposal was readily accepted by the planters, the Coolies are fast taking the bounty offered, and thus the planters are in point of fact paying the whole cost of procuring a number of Coolies for a term of five years.

Things had arrived at this position with regard to Indian immigrants, when the vote for Portuguese immigration for the year 1856, came under the consideration of the Combined Court. These people have been brought from Madeira, at a cost of $30 per head, half of which was paid by the planter, on condition of their entering into indentures for three years; and the number for whom passage was thus paid in 1855, was 847.

On the arrival, however, of the last vessel from Madeira, which occurred during the session of the Combined Court, some of the Portuguese, finding that they were not wanted on the estates to which they wished to be indentured, and prompted by their friends already settled here, refused to enter into indentures with any other; and after full inquiry and consideration it was found that there were no legal means of compelling them to do so. The colony therefore had to pay the whole passage money, and the people remained free from any engagement.

About this time also it became known that we might expect a considerable number of immigrants from the Cape de Verd Islands, of which the inhabitants are in great distress, and from which two ships have already arrived.

All these circumstances taken together induced me to think it just and politic that the cost of the Portuguese immigration should, like that of the East Indian, devolve upon the planters who required the labour, and I determined upon endeavouring to carry such an arrangement through the Combined Court.

It appeared to me that so long as the planters were provided with labour at the cost of the general revenues, they could not quite extricate themselves from the false position of being accused by the Creole population of making use of what they term their money, for bringing people to the country for the express purpose of competing with them.

This may very possibly be a senseless cry. It may be an undeniable fact that the laziness of the Creoles forced the planters to have recourse to immigration. It may be equally a fact that without immigration the sugar estates would have been abandoned, and the Creoles themselves left without employment and penniless. But, nevertheless, these facts are not sufficient to outweigh in the minds of uneducated and unreasoning people the one other fact that public money is taken to pay for those who will compete with them in the labour market. That the existence of such a feeling must tend to keep open a breach between the Creoles on the one hand and the employers and immigrants on the other cannot by any one be denied. And if it be the case, that by the expenditure of large sums of public money, the gap caused by the original secession from field labour of the Creoles has now been sufficiently filled to enable the planter to keep his estate in tolerable order; and if the annual produce of the colony has been nearly restored to what it was shortly before the termination of the apprenticeship, then I think the time has arrived when the planter ought no longer to be supplied with labour except at his own cost;

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and the Government may fairly take the vantage ground in dealing with the Creole population, of stating that public money will no longer be expended for introducing new immigrants.

For these reasons I proposed to the Court that they should deal with Portuguese as they had dealt with Indian immigration, that is, that the planter should pay the whole cost on condition of being assisted with an advance on loan in the first instance. After considerable discussion the proposal was agreed to; resolutions in conformity were passed, and the two sums above-mentioned were inserted in the estimate—that for $15,000 to meet the cost of immigrants likely to be introduced before the new arrangement could be brought into operation; and that for $20,000 to cover advances in anticipation of a loan. This was done at the instance of the Vice-President of the financial representatives, Mr. P. Rose; but there was no necessity whatever for such a vote, as the advances from the colony chest to enable the planters to meet the bounties, in the first instance, will be replaced by a loan to be negotiated under the authority of an Ordinance.

Enclosure 2.

Encl. 1 in No. 39.

Enclosure 1 in No. 39.

EXTRACT of ESTIMATES for the Service of the Year 1856.

Immigration.	$
For the passage money of immigrants from Madeira and other places - -	15,000
Gratuities to Surgeons and Officers of the Coolie transports - - -	5,000
For back passages of Coolies leaving this colony for India this year - -	23,000
For the expenses of superintendence - - - - - - -	10,000
	53,000
New Items (Extract).	
For the passage money of immigrants from Madeira and other places to provide for advances to be made on account of those proprietors of plantations who engage the services under indenture of such immigrants - - -	20,000
To reimburse the Lords of the Treasury a sum of £6,421 19*s.* 1¼*d.*, for advances made in India in 1847, for Coolie emigration to the colony, and still unsettled $30,825. 38, proportion for this year - - - - - - -	10,000
	30,000

Encl. 2 in No. 39.

Enclosure 2 in No. 39.

EXTRACT from the MINUTES of the proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, combined with the financial representatives of the inhabitants of the said colony, at its annual assembly held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara.

Thursday, June 5, 1856.

Honourable Attorney-General moves the resolutions respecting immigration from Madeira, of which he gave notice on the 14th ultimo:

1. *Resolved*, that the agent employed under the authority of the Governor and Court of Policy for the superintendence of emigration from Madeira to this colony be instructed to require all emigrants shipped through his agency to sign previous to their embarkation an agreement to be executed in due form according to the law of that island, binding themselves to enter into indentures on their arrival for the term of three years, with such employers as may be named by the Governor, and that the parties by whom emigration from the Cape de Verd Islands has been lately commenced, be requested to follow the same course.

2. That this Court having by its Resolutions of the 19th March 1855, determined that the cost of the passage hither of Indian immigrants should be borne by the planters to whom they may be indentured, is of opinion that the cost of the passage hither of immigrants from Madeira, the Cape de Verde, Azores, and Canary Islands, should also be borne by the planters, to whom they may be indentured, such cost to be paid at such rate as shall from time to time be fixed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy.

3. That the Governor and Court of Policy be requested to pass an ordinance for raising upon the guarantee of the Colonial revenue such sum as may be required for payment of the passage of the immigrants mentioned in the preceding resolution for binding the estates, on behalf of which application may be made for such immigrant to take such as may be allotted to them and for rendering such estates liable for the payment of such passage money in manner following, one-sixth at the time of the signing of the indenture,

one-sixth at the end of a year thereafter, one-third at the end of two years thereafter, and the remainder at the end of three years thereafter, with interest at 6 per cent.

4. That this arrangement shall take effect with respect to all immigrants mentioned in the preceding Resolutions, arriving in the colony after the 1st of September next, and that the Governor be authorized thereafter to advance out of the Colonial revenues the sums required from time to time for the passage of any such immigrants, and to recover the amount from the employer in terms of the preceding Resolution.

Seconded by the Government Secretary.

After some discussion, the Attorney-General introduced the following as an additional Resolution, and strikes out the present 5th.

That the Governor be impowered to pay the bounty due upon the introduction of such immigrants to the ship owner, upon the production by him of documents under the hand of the emigration agent in Madeira, proving that such immigrants have entered into agreements in conformity with the preceding Resolution, and that the Governor be further impowered to take the necessary legal steps for enforcing the fulfilment of their agreements by such immigrants.

Resolutions then put and agreed to.

True extract.

H. MANDER, Secretary.

No. 40. No. 40.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 88.)

Government House, Georgetown, July 10, 1856.
(Received August 2, 1856.)
(Answered, No. 126, August 23, 1856, p. 94.)

SIR,

BY the mail of the 2nd June, I received your Despatch, No. 86,* of the 31st May last, and likewise through a private channel a report of an interview which took place on the 20th of May, between yourself and a deputation of the West India Committee. And last night I had the honour of receiving your Despatch No. 89,† of the 5th June.

* Page 89.

† Page 90.

By the first two communications I learnt for the first time that there was an emigration agent at Bombay, and also that the deputation pressed upon you the propriety of allowing private parties to obtain immigrants from that Presidency.

I understand the question of private importation to have been generally and conclusively disposed of by the refusal of the East India Company; but as it appears from your Despatch No. 89, that only four vessels have been chartered for Madras and Calcutta, I hope you will not be unwilling to allow an experiment to be made at Bombay, through the instrumentality of the emigration agent.

I shall lose no time in replying further to your last-mentioned Despatch.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No 41. No. 41.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 89.)

Government House, Georgetown, July 10, 1856.
(Received August 2, 1856.)
(Answered, No. 135, August 29, 1856, page 94.)

SIR,

I BEG leave to bring under your consideration the copy of a long report upon the system of immigration in force at Martinique, addressed to the Governor of Trinidad,‡ which has been published in the newspapers here. There is only one point of the many here referred to upon which I think our position will not admit of a favourable comparison with that of the French, viz., the limitation of the number of immigrants permitted to be conveyed in any one vessel.

‡ Vide page 327.

BRITISH GUIANA.

This paper shows that although the vessels were permitted to carry to Martinique Coolies at the rate of one adult to every ton, the mortality was excessively small in all of them. I must confess my inability to understand why a vessel of the largest size should be restricted to 350 adults, when it is probable that the larger the ship, the better will be the description of accommodation, and when even the East India Company's Act for the government of the emigration, limits the number of passengers only to one for every two tons, or one for every twelve superficial feet of the lower deck.

You will observe that the four vessels chartered for the next season would, at the rate of one for every two tons, bring about 1,900 immigrants, whereas in the letter addressed to you on the 20th May, by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, it is stated that they will probably carry between 1,300 and 1,400 souls.

I hope I may ask you to consider whether there is any good reason for the maintenance of a rule which must cause so much additional expense to the colony.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 42.

No. 42.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 117.)

Government House, Georgetown, September 6, 1856.

(Received October 4, 1856.)

(Answered, No. 196, December 17, 1856, p. 114.)

Sir,

I have the honour of submitting to you, in the hope that they may be confirmed by Her Majesty, two ordinances passed by the Court of Policy:

Vide App. No. 6. No. 25. "To amend the ordinance No. 7 of 1854."

Vide App. No. 7. No. 26. "To regulate the payments of contract duty to be made by the employers of immigrant labourers from Madeira, the Azores, and the Cape de Verde or Canary islands."

2. The latter of the two ordinances became necessary in consequence of the Combined Court having, as reported in my Despatch No. 83,* of the 23rd June last, passed resolutions to the effect that the cost of the introduction of immigrants from the places above mentioned should for the future be defrayed by the person to whom they might be indentured on arrival.

* Page 196.

When, however, the draft of the bill was introduced into the Court of Policy, some of the members expressed an opinion that the planters could not afford to pay so much as £30 for any such immigrant, while the period of his indentured service continued to be limited to three years; and they strongly urged that these immigrants should be brought under the same rule as the East Indian, viz., that they should be liable to service for five years, with permission at the end of either the third or of the fourth year to change their employers or to pay a commutation, at the rate of one-fifth of the amount paid for their introduction, for each of those years.

3. The members of the Court at the same time urged upon the consideration of the Government the unnecessary expense and trouble which was created under the 19th section of the ordinance, No. 7 of 1854, which required the immigration agent-general to travel perpetually about the colony for the purpose of re-indenturing, paying bounty, &c., in the case of Coolies whose previous engagements terminated at uncertain periods throughout the year.

4. Being of opinion that these representations were well-founded and reasonable, I thought it right, before proceeding further with the bill already introduced, to bring forward another calculated to meet these views, and at the same time to carry into effect the instructions conveyed to me by your Despatches,† No. 86 and No. 100, of the 31st May and 1st July last, respecting

† Pages 89 & 91.

the back passages of the Coolies. The ordinance No. 25 was consequently brought in and passed without opposition, except that directed against the 7th section.

5. The first section of this ordinance repeals certain sections of ordinance No. 7 of 1854. The 2nd and 4th re-enact, substantially without the smallest alteration in respect to Indian, African, and Chinese immigrants, the provisions of the 16th and 19th thus repealed; but in the case of immigrants from Madeira, the Azores, and the Cape de Verde islands, they alter their position in the manner just explained, and place those people on the same footing as the East Indians with respect to service and commutation.

I do not anticipate that you will see any reason to object to this alteration.

6. The 3rd section provides that the immigration agent-general shall, instead of, as at present, visiting estates at uncertain periods, visit every estate in the colony, on days to be fixed beforehand, once in every six months, and then call upon all the immigrants whose indentures would expire before his next visit, to intimate whether at the time of their expiration they would wish to change or to remain in the same service. I am inclined to think that this will be a considerable improvement. The Coolies are now becoming habituated to waiting upon the estate for the arrival of the immigration agent-general, instead of wandering up to Georgetown to seek for him; but we cannot without much inconvenience encourage them in that habit, beneficial as it is, unless we can reduce the number of his journies to something reasonable. The 5th section is intended to ensure fair dealing in this matter.

7. I hope that the 6th section will remove the objection taken by the Land and Emigration Commissioners to the 53rd section of the ordinance, No. 7 of 1854. I cannot deny that the objection, being founded upon the strict wording of the clause, was a just one.

Practically, however, there never existed here the smallest intention of taking advantage of that wording, the force of which had at the time of the passing of the ordinance been overlooked, through anxiety to meet all the contingencies contemplated in the correspondence which was then passing.

8. The 7th section met with strong opposition from three members of the Court, Mr. Peter Rose, Mr. Gon Netscher, and Mr. Cameron. They maintained that under the existing law the planter could not enforce the performance of that industrial service on the part of the Coolie which by the terms of the contract he had a right to expect; and they declined to grant compensation to the Coolie for detention in the colony after having acquired a right to his back passage, unless that provision were accompanied with more stringent rules for compelling the Coolies to work.

This proposition I felt bound to resist, being satisfied that it was very impolitic and uncalled for, inasmuch as the ordinance of 1854 afforded the planters quite as much protection as they could reasonably demand, if they chose to avail themselves of it. The discussions were renewed on several occasions, and the Government received the full support of Mr. Porter, who, in consequence of a vacancy existing at the time, was the only other elective member.

On the third reading, the three gentlemen I have named voted against the bill; but I have no hesitation in recommending it for Her Majesty's confirmation, as I am confident that the objections are unsound, and in no way emanate from the body of the planters.

9. The last section merely provides for the transfer of powers from justices, hitherto specially appointed under an ordinance just repealed, to the same justices, who will be appointed under a new law.

10. The ordinance No. 26 calls for little explanation, as it is intended only to grant to employers of immigrants from the islands of the Atlantic the same privileges in respect to the periodical payment of passage money as have been already granted to the employers of Coolies, with the exception that it renders the employer for the last two years liable to pay as much as the employer for the first three, in consideration of the heavy charges almost always incurred during the acclimatization of the Portuguese.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

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No. 43.

No. 43.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 118.) Government House, Georgetown, September 6, 1856.
(Received October 4, 1856.)

SIR, (Answered by Nos. 180 and 181, Nov. 24, 1856, pp. 104 and 105.)

I HAVE the honour to submit for the confirmation of Her Majesty two ordinances passed by the Court of Policy, No. 22, "To legalize the Payment of Bounty to Indian Immigrants entitled to back passages on certain conditions;" No. 23, "For raising a Loan for Payment of Bounty to Indian "Immigrants."

Vide App. No. 4.

Vide App. No. 5.

I feel that I need not trouble you with explanation of these ordinances, which have been passed for the purpose of carrying out the arrangement submitted in my Despatch No. 154,* of the 3rd November last, and sanctioned by your reply, No. 11,† of the 14th of the following month.

* Page 181.
† Page 81.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 44.

No. 44.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 123.) Government House, Georgetown, September 9, 1856.
(Received October 4, 1856.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 173, November 11, 1856, p. 104.)

I BEG leave to forward for your information the copy of a Proclamation which has been published under the provisions of the 4th section of our Ordinance, No. 7 of 1854, for fixing the rates of bounty to be paid in future for the introduction of immigrants.

Enclosure.

You will perceive that the rates have been increased in the case of those coming from Madeira from $30 to $35, and in the case of those coming from the Cape de Verde Islands from $30 to $50 for each adult.

I shall feel obliged if the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners will be good enough to make these charges known to the owners of shipping.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

Encl. in No. 44.

Enclosure in No. 44.

Proclamation.

By His Excellency Philip Edmund Wodehouse, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the colony of British Guiana; Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c.

British Guiana.

L.S.

(Signed)
P. E. WODEHOUSE.

By virtue of the power and authority vested in me, Philip Edmund Wodehouse, Esquire, Governor of the colony of British Guiana, by Ordinance No. 7, of the year 1854, intituled "An Ordinance for the Amendment and Consolidation of the Laws for the Encouragement "of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants,"—

And in pursuance of a resolution of the Honourable the Court of Policy, of the 4th September 1856,—

I do by this my Proclamation name the ports or places from which immigrants may be introduced into this colony, in conformity with the same Ordinance, No. 7 of 1854, and with the Ordinance No. 25 of 1856, and likewise the rates of bounties to be allowed for such introduction of immigrants, under and subject to the provisions of said Ordinances, to be as follows,—

Names of Ports or Places from which Immigrants may be introduced into the Colony.	Rates of Bounties allowed for the introduction of Immigrants.
Madeira	£35
Azores or Western Islands	35
Canary Islands	35
Cape de Verde Islands	50
Curacoa	20
Margarita and Spanish Main	20
United States of America and British North America	30
China, or Chinese from any port east of Point de Galle in Ceylon	100

Given under my hand and seal of office, at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, this sixth day of September 1856, and in the twentieth year of Her Majesty's reign.

God save the Queen.

By His Excellency's command.

(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Government Secretary.

A true Copy.
W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Government Secretary.

No. 45.

No. 45.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 125.)

Government House, Georgetown,
September 24, 1856.
(Received October 18, 1856.)
(Answered, No. 196, December 17, 1856, p. 114.)

SIR,

WITH reference to my Despatch, No. 117,* of the 6th instant, I beg leave to forward the copy of a protest which has been recorded by three members of the Court of Policy against the passing of the Ordinance, No. 25 of 1856.

* Page 200.

Enclosure.

When I submitted the Ordinance for your approval I was not aware of their intention to record this protest; but at the same time I do not feel it necessary to trouble you with any remarks upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 45.

Encl. in No. 45.

Hall of the Court of Policy, Georgetown,
September 3, 1856.

WE, the undersigned, protest against the passing of the bill, read a third time this day, entitled "A Bill to amend Ordinance No. 7 of 1854," and for the following reasons:—

That it is our opinion that any bill purporting to amend Ordinance No. 7 of 1854, ought clearly to define the meaning of "industrial residence," with reference to Indian immigrants; certificates being granted at present with regard solely to the time which these labourers may have passed in this Colony, whether in performance of their allotted tasks, or in idleness, sickness, or vagrancy, ascertained alone by the name of the vessel in which they were imported.

Further, that under the above circumstances we hold it to be unjust to the colonists to require them to remunerate these labourers for any slight unavoidable delay which may take place in procuring ships for their gratuitous back passages, seeing that their labour here is so remunerative to them, that a short detention cannot be looked upon as any hardship. And this is substantially proved by the large amount of specie carried away by every industrious Indian immigrant, on his or her return to their native country.

(Signed) A. D. V. GONNETSCHER,
JOHN CAMERON.
PETER ROSE.

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No. 46.

No. 46.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 144.)

Government House, Georgetown, November 8, 1856,
(Received December 1, 1856.)
(Answered, No. 193, December 11, 1856, p. 111.)

SIR,

I THINK it right to inform you that, in consequence of the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to guarantee our new loan for immigration purposes, and of the existing state of the money market at home, we have not been able to complete our arrangements for borrowing the funds required.

I have, therefore, given warning to those who have applied for Coolies of the probability of my being compelled to require payment in cash of the whole sum due from employers for each Coolie, viz., $50; and from the tenor of the answers already received I have no doubt of my being able to meet the liabilities of the colony to the owners of the vessels chartered, as they may become due, for all the Coolies that are likely to be sent to us in the season.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 47.

No. 47.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 153.)

Government House, Georgetown, December 6, 1856.
(Received January 5, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 237, April 1, 1857, p. 121.)

SIR,

I HAVE now the honour of bringing under your notice the proceedings of a special session of the Combined Court, which I found it necessary to summon on the 28th ultimo, to take into consideration various questions connected with immigration.

* Page 204.

2. By my Despatch No. 144* of the 8th ultimo I informed you of my having warned the planters of the probability of their being required to pay in cash the whole of the passage money for the Coolies now expected from India, and many of them at once expressed their readiness to do so.

Enclosure 1.

But after a few days I received a remonstrance signed by all the principal planters of the county of Berbice, which, with the reply given by my direction, I submitted to the Court of Policy on the 21st ultimo. Before this took place, however, I had, in consequence of the receipt of your Despatch No. 147,† of the 19th September last, submitted to the Court a memorandum, supported by detailed calculations, pointing out the fact of the guaranteed loan being virtually exhausted, setting before them the liabilities which we had come under, and inviting them to consider whether emigration could be continued after the close of the season of 1856–7.

† Page 95.

Enclosure 2.

Enclosure 3.

Enclosure 4.

On the 21st ultimo, therefore, the members of the Court of Policy thought it their duty, in view of all the circumstances, to advise a special session of the Combined Court, to determine whether employers should pay in cash for the Coolies allotted to them, and whether immigration should be continued after the close of this season.

Enclosure 5.

3. After I had closed my opening address application was made for copies of all correspondence that had passed with the Immigration Loan Commissioners respecting the Ordinance No. 16 of 1855, and the Court adjourned until the 2d instant. In the interval I was informed by the Government Secretary that it had been the real intention of the members to apply for copies of the Despatches which had passed between Her Majesty's Government and myself respecting the Ordinance; but I determined to take no steps towards furnishing them until the Court met again.

Enclosure 6.

On the 2d the enclosed reply, signed by most of the unofficial members, was delivered in, and then I laid before them the extracts of Despatches of

which I enclose printed copies, stating that I had taken upon myself to do so in opposition to the standing instructions in that matter; an act which I must now endeavour to justify before you. Since I have been in the government of this colony I have as far as possible followed the rule, now perhaps more generally observed in the eastern than in the western possessions of Great Britain, that copies of Despatches are not to be given except by desire of the Secretary of State. And I must beg you to believe that on the present occasion I acted differently, not because I wished to make a parade of my own efforts to serve the colony and of the censure to which I had been subjected, but because we had arrived at a very serious crisis in our financial arrangements, at which much and perhaps irreparable mischief might ensue from a false course of action.

Enclosure 7.

I had been warned that several members of the Court were inclined to believe, from their never having seen the Despatches, that I was not sincere in advocating the continuance of immigration, and that if I had cordially supported the project the Home Government would have guaranteed the new Immigration Loan. And that under the influence of these feelings they were inclined to assert that money could be procured without calling upon the planters to pay in cash. I did not think you would wish me to risk the confusion which must have ensued, and therefore decided upon producing so much of the correspondence as must satisfy them of their mistake.

The tenor of their reply will go far to prove the accuracy of the information given me, while the remarks which fell from some of the members after the Despatches had been read will show the favourable effects which they produced.

4. I then adjourned the Court to the following day for the purpose of examining the calculations contained in the reply, and likewise to afford the members time for farther consideration. On the following morning the enclosed memorandum in answer to the reply was read, and the Court having proceeded to business passed several resolutions, upon each of which I shall submit such observations as seem necessary.

5. The resolution proposed by Mr. Whitney is included in the more comprehensive one which forms the seventh of the eleven resolutions carried on the motion of the Attorney-General, of which the two first contain only the affirmation of certain principles, now no longer disputed.

Enclosure 8.

Enclosure 9.

6. Upon the fate of the third resolution depended, in point of fact, the determination of the main question for which the special session had been called. And you will perceive that the Court, after no very lengthened discussion, decided that the Coolies now expected for the season of 1856–7, as well as those which might be applied for in the season of 1857–8, should be paid for by the employers in cash. The Court was unwilling to make the resolution more comprehensive, as they would not give up all hope of raising a loan at some future day. But for my own part I think this is very immaterial, inasmuch as there can be little doubt that the superiority of the system of cash payments will after a time be so evident as to remove all desire for the revival of the old unsound credit system. This resolution, therefore, puts an end to all doubt respecting the Coolies now about to arrive, and will enable me with ease to submit to you the arrangements for the following season.

7. The fourth and fifth resolutions were moved with the view of reducing as far as practicable the pressure suddenly brought to bear upon the planters by the failure of the loan negotiations, and I do not anticipate any embarrassment in carrying them into effect.

8. Circulars will be immediately addressed to the planters in conformity with the 6th resolution, requiring them to state what Coolies they wish to be supplied with in 1857–8; and as they will have to pay the passage money in cash, I shall have no hesitation, on learning the numbers, in supporting the pledge given in the 7th resolution for payment of all expenses that may be incurred.

9. The next resolution is one of great importance to the colony. I need only allude cursorily to the objections raised from time to time by the colonists against the obligation to provide the Coolies with back passages after certain terms of service. We know that the policy of Her Majesty's Government has never changed upon that point; and the colonists have now fairly relinquished the expectation of being set free from the liability to fulfil that engagement in some shape. It must, however, be admitted that the burthen is so great, in

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the case of the Coolies who were introduced for five years only, as to render it a matter of difficulty for those who were not in the colony when they began to spend the immigration loans, to discover upon what calculations it was reckoned that any such scheme of expenditure could be remunerative. And immediately after my arrival I brought this charge prominently before the Legislature. The object of the present resolution is to procure the permission of Her Majesty's Government for obtaining from the Coolies the surrender of their right to a back passage at the end of five years, upon such terms as may be considered reasonable. A similar proposal was made in 1853, and rejected by the Duke of Newcastle in his Despatch No. 169, of the 3rd January 1854; but there is one circumstance which encourages me again to bring the question under consideration, viz., the fact that Sir George Grey, in his Despatch No. 52,* of the 15th November 1854, writes, "All future emigrants will also be apprized "that they will not be entitled to any further aid towards the expense of their "back passages, unless claimed within eighteen months of the time of their "becoming due." It seems clear that Sir George Grey contemplated the probability of future emigrants becoming a part of the permanent population of the colony; and I do not therefore myself see what objection there could be to emigrants who had arrived before that time being allowed to take the same course. Indeed, as regards the immigrants themselves, I really believe that their condition would in many respects materially improve, if they and others also were convinced that this country had become their permanent home. To the colony the saving would be very great, and especially if I could obtain your authority for carrying out the arrangement at once. The Tables enclosed with this Despatch will show that 4,367 Coolies will be entitled to back passages or bounty in 1857; and if they take the latter to the extent calculated upon, they will again have a claim upon the colony to the amount of 140,000 dollars in 1862.

* Page 59.

10. Looking to the tenor of the Despatches which I have received on the subject of Imperial guarantees to loans, I shall do no more than point out that the loan proposed in the 9th resolution is not for the purpose of promoting further immigration, but for reducing the pressure upon the public revenues of burthens created by a past policy.

11. The 10th resolution will form the subject of a separate Despatch.

12. I am sensible that I run some risk, after the reproofs which I have received from you, in advocating measures to which Her Majesty's Government have expressed opinions more or less adverse. But Chinese immigration holds out, in my opinion, such prospects of permanent benefit to the colony, as to make it my duty, even at some personal hazard, to support the last of the resolutions of the Combined Court. I have for some weeks past had under my consideration returns, imperfect it is true, of the labour of the Indian immigrants on the estates; and have been induced by the unsatisfactory nature of the returns of their work, to make inquiries respecting the few gangs of Chinese now in the colony. The replies are all to the same effect; that they are most valuable labourers, giving no trouble, and doing any sort of work required of them without question; and therefore, seeing that in their case the colony comes under no obligation for a back passage, there can be no dispute as to their great value, provided a sufficient number of women can be brought with them. The people of China are now voluntarily migrating in every direction; and the question for the decision of Her Majesty's Government appears to be, whether it is necessary, upon moral, social, or political grounds, to prohibit British merchants and capitalists from providing the Chinese with the means of reaching this distant part of the globe, accompanied by a certain proportion of females, without whom it is not desirable that they should come. The Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners and the Lieut.-Governor of Hong Kong, appear, from the correspondence laid before the House of Commons in 1855, to have estimated at their real value the objections raised by Sir J. Bowring, and others to the plan suggested for obtaining Chinese female immigrants. And if Sir John Bowring should be still unwilling, on the grounds then put forward or on others, to exercise a supervision over emigration to the West Indies, may not the undertaking be very properly entrusted to the enterprise of private individuals, who must trust to their own efforts for success, and whose acts need not necessarily compromise the British with the Chinese Government. In making this suggestion, I do not propose that the Chinese emigrant should

be left to the mercy of the speculator, or that the latter should be freed from control of any sort. On the contrary, I would not permit the introduction into the colony of Chinese to be rendered subject while here to the immigration laws, except under licences from the Governor; and these licences might be issued under any conditions, in respect to the numbers, proportions of sexes, and treatment on board, which Her Majesty's Government might consider proper.

13. I shall now conclude this Despatch with the expression of my hope that you will be able to approve of the manner in which the several questions have been treated by the Legislature.

I have &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 47.

Encl. 1 in No. 47.

SIR, Berbice, November 17, 1856.

I HAVE been requested to forward the enclosed representation to you, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.

The Hon. W. B. Wolseley, Acting Government Secretary, &c., Demerara. (Signed) JAMES LAING.

"To His Excellency Philip Edmund Wodehouse, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, &c. &c.

"May it please your Excellency,—We, the undersigned proprietors and representatives of estates, and other inhabitants of the county of Berbice, beg respectfully to address your Excellency in reference to a circular Letter, bearing date the 5th November 1856, which we have received from the Honourable the Government Secretary.

"By this letter we are informed, that in consequence of the arrangements for effecting the immigration loan not having been carried out, that it is your Excellency's intention to assign the Coolie immigrants who may arrive during the approaching season to such plantations only as are in a position to pay in ready money the full sum of fifty dollars each for them.

"We beg leave earnestly and firmly but most respectfully to remonstrate with your Excellency against such a proceeding, which would not only be most oppressive and unjust towards the poorer proprietors, but would also be in absolute contravention of the terms and conditions laid down in the Immigration Ordinance (anno 1855), for the distribution of Coolies.

"We feel fully assured that the necessary funds for meeting all the engagements of the colony could readily be obtained, either through the local banks or otherwise, without resorting to a step not only wholly unprecedented in its character, but fraught with so great and manifest an injustice to the poorer estates.

"We would also call to your Excellency's notice the fact, that such proposed arrangement would involve still farther complications, even in reference to such parties as might be able to receive them on the terms proposed, inasmuch as it would compel them to pay in cash in advance for five years' services, whereas the Immigration Ordinance only guarantees three.

"We would further beg to impress upon your Excellency, that the whole financial arrangements of our estates are based upon the terms and conditions of the Immigration Ordinance, upon the strength of which some of us have been induced to invest large sums of money in improved machinery and extended cultivation; and any interruption of the supply of labour, which that Ordinance gave us a right to calculate upon, would be most disastrous in its consequences to us.

"With all respect we would submit, that if your Excellency should experience any difficulty in meeting the engagements of the colony, the more constitutional course would be to convene a special session of the Combined Court, in which case we are fully convinced that due provision would be made for them, without inflicting such a grievous injury upon the majority of the estates in this county, or contravening the terms and conditions of the Immigration Ordinance.

"We most respectfully but most earnestly entreat your Excellency will be pleased to reconsider this most important matter, and deal with it in a more comprehensive and equitable spirit, and

"We have, &c."

(Signed by 69 persons.)

Enclosure 2 in No. 47.

Encl. 2 in No. 47.

Government Secretary's Office,

SIR, November 21, 1856.

"I AM directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of the representation addressed to him by certain gentlemen of the county of Berbice relative to what they term 'a most oppressive and unjust' proceeding, and one 'in absolute contravention of

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the terms and conditions laid down' in the Ordinance, No. 8 of 1855, which you were informed by my circular letter of the 5th instant was contemplated by the Government.

"The Governor has not the slightest intention to deny that the course taken is at variance with the spirit of that Ordinance; but he is sorry that without first applying for further information they should have assumed that there was no good ground for the change; more particularly as there is reason to believe that the publication of the resolutions agreed to at the meeting held at New Amsterdam on the 10th instant has tended to create unfavourable and erroneous impressions in other parts of the colony.

"His Excellency has seen nothing since the session of the Combined Court for 1855 to induce him to change the opinion he had then arrived at, viz., that additional burthens could not with propriety be imposed upon the general revenues for the furtherance of immigration; and he supposes that the gentlemen of Berbice will not deny that the Ordinances Nos. 8 and 16, of 1855, were part and parcel of one scheme. Neither will they deny that it was intended to give the planter the accommodation contemplated in Ordinance No. 8, altogether through the instrumentality of a loan to be raised under the Ordinance No. 16. Accordingly, after that Ordinance had been passed, his Excellency, with the view of borrowing the money upon terms favourable to the colony, recommended that the loan should receive the Imperial guarantee; and subseqnently, before receiving a reply upon that point, he assured the Secretary of State that the Coolies might with safety be ordered for the next season, as he was confident that funds would be provided for the cost of their passage hither.

"You are aware that Her Majesty's Government did not consider themselves warranted in granting the proposed guarantee; and consequently the Governor thought it advisable to address a letter on the 10th July last to many gentlemen of wealth and influence at home, possessed of estates here, pointing out how imperatively necessary it was that steps should be taken for providing the funds required to meet the liabilities of the coming season. The Loan Commissioners also requested certain gentlemen to act as their agents for negotiating the loan.

"The Government, therefore, was not wanting in its efforts to obtain the assistance needed; but as the time drew on, and no decisive step appeared to have been taken in England, the Governor conceived that he must without delay take precautions for preserving the credit of the colony and for fulfilling the promises which he had made to the Secretary of State.

"The gentlemen of Berbice have assumed that the money could be readily obtained through the local banks or otherwise.

"As regards the banks, his Excellency had been long aware that they had no intention of locking up their capital by purchases of the bonds. And as regards other sources, he knew that the limited public funds at command for such purposes would be speedily absorbed, and that very few tenders had been received upon the advertisements published by the Loan Commissioners. He therefore, after consultation with the Court of Policy, and with their concurrence, directed the circular of the 5th instant to be addressed to the proprietors and attorneys of estates.

"It is undoubtedly true that proprietors of large capital will be enabled to meet this, as any other demand, with greater facility than those of limited means; and the Governor has no wish here to renew the discussion upon the soundness of a policy which has had the effect of enabling persons of small means to compete in commercial undertakings, through the artificial aid of funds drawn from the common purse, with men of greater substance. It is sufficient now to state, that it was from a regard to the case of the former that the circular was issued in anticipation of the arrival of Coolies, in order that they might be enabled to take advantage of the favourable condition of the sugar market for making the necessary arrangements. Moreover, as the arrivals of the Coolies are spread over several months, his Excellency felt that he could, in the distribution of them, materially assist those planters to whom time was of the greatest importance.

"In conclusion, I am to observe that the Governor has not in his communications with the Secretary of State shrunk from pledging himself, at the solicitation of the proprietary body, for the fulfilment of obligations not at the time sanctioned by law, in the confidence that he should be supported in the same spirit in overcoming any difficulties which might as on this occasion present themselves. That he cannot consider this question apart from the other liabilities which the colony and the planters have come under in connexion with immigration, and which from the time of his arrival in the colony he has endeavoured to keep before their eyes. And lastly, that upon a careful consideration of the representation now submitted to him, he conceives that it would not be for the benefit of the colony to adopt a course different from that pointed at in my letter of the 5th instant.

"I have, &c."

James Laing, Esq. (Signed) W. B. Wolseley,
Act. Gov. Sec.

Enclosure 3 in No. 47. Encl. 3 in No. 47

MEMORANDUM.

I WISH to take this occasion of bringing under the consideration of this Court an extract of a letter addressed to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, on the 8th September last; and at the same time to call the attention of the members to some important points connected with immigration, upon which it appears to be desirable to have further communication with Her Majesty's Government before the next session of the Combined Court.

Honourable members are aware of my having, with their approval, caused an intimation to be conveyed to the proprietors and attorneys of estates of the probability of their being required to pay in ready money for the Coolies now expected from India, in consequence of its having been found impracticable to negotiate a loan in England (as will be seen from the accompanying letters addressed to the Loan Commissioners); and likewise from the Government having good reason to believe that the local banks were not disposed to become the purchasers of the immigration loan bonds; and the sum which must, therefore, be provided by employers for the introduction of the 4,300 Coolies expected to be sent amounts to $215,000.

The letter of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, however, proves beyond all doubt, that we can no longer defer grappling with those liabilities of the colony which I endeavoured to bring under the notice of this Court on the 21st April, 1854, and under that of the Combined Court on the 2d March 1855. The letter in question assumes that there will be a balance of 6,500*l.* of the British Guiana Guaranteed Loan, available after the close of the operations of the season of 1856-7. But, in reality, there will not be so large a sum. inasmuch as about 3,500*l.* will be required for a vessel already applied for for the conveyance of Coolies to Calcutta. For future seasons, therefore, the loan may be regarded as exhausted; and the following I believe to be a correct statement in the main of the position in which we now stand, as gathered from the calculations which I lay before you.

In the year 1857 three thousand four hundred and sixty seven (3,467) Coolies will acquire claims to back passages, costing, at 14*l.* each, 48,538*l.*, or $232,982; and the number of Coolies who will acquire similar claims in the course of the five years ending with 1861 will be no less than 7,417, costing 103,838*l.*, or $498,422. We may assume, however, judging from the experience of the current year, that about one-fourth will demand the passages to which they will be entitled, and that the remainder will take a bounty to stay for a further period of five years; and the case would then stand in 1857 thus—For back passages 860 Coolies, costing 12,124*l.*, or $58,195; for bounty, 2,601 Coolies, costing 27,093*l.*, or $130,050; and for the five years ending with 1861 thus—For back passages 1,855 Coolies, costing 25,970*l.*, or $124,656; for bounty 5,562 Coolies, costing 57,937*l.*, or $278,100.

The sums required for back passages will have to be provided out of the General Revenue. Those required for bounty, by employers.

I cannot for an instant assume that Her Majesty's Government will grant or guarantee any loan for the payment of bounty, or for the introduction of new Coolies; and, therefore, the cost of both must be defrayed by the employers, either in ready money or in instalments, in repayment of sums to be borrowed on the credit of the colony alone, of which there appears to be little probability.

In the two years, 1857 and 1858, therefore, the planters will have to provide the following sums, viz.:—

For new Coolies 1856-7 - - - -	$215,000	0
,, Bounty in 1857 - - - - -	130,050	0
,, Bounty in 1858 - - - - -	49,950	0
Promissory Notes falling due in 1857-8 - -	70,000	0
Total - - - -	$465,000	0

I hope, under these circumstances, the Court will now take into their serious consideration whether it is probable that the planters will be desirous of obtaining more Coolies from India in the season of 1857-8, in order that I may be enabled to inform the Secretary of State whether this colony will be prepared to make provision for the payment of any expenses which may be incurred in India after the British Guiana loan has been exhausted.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

November 18, 1856.

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Encl. 4 in No. 47.

Enclosure 4 in No. 47.

Year.	Coolies imported or received Bounty.	Deduction for Mortality at 20 per cent.	Balance.	Cost of Passage.	Total in Dollars.	Total in Pounds sterling.
					$ c.	£ s. d.
1857	4,337	870	3,467	$67 20c. or £14 each.	232,982 40	48,538 0 0
1858	1,663	330	1,333		89,577 60	18,662 0 0
1859	1,912	380	1,532		102,950 40	21,448 0 0
1861	1,355	270	1,085		72,912 00	15,190 0 0
	9,267	1,850	7,417		498,422 40	103,838 0 0

Year.	Coolies for back Passage or Bounty.	Three-fourths taking Bounty.	One-fourth for Passage.	Cost of Passage.	Total in Dollars.	Total in Pounds sterling.
					$ c.	£ s. d.
1857	3,467	2,601	866	$67 20c. or £14 each.	58,195 20	12,124 0 0
1858	1,333	999	334		22,444 80	4,676 0 0
1859	1,532	1,149	383		25,737 60	5,362 0 0
1861	1,085	813	272		18,278 40	3,808 0 0
	7,417	5,562	1,855		124,656 0	25,970 0 0
1862	2,777	2,082	695		46,704 0	9,730 0 0
	10,194	7,644	2,550		171,360 0	35,700 0 0

Year.	Coolies for back Passage or Bounty.	One-fourth taking Passage.	Three-fourths for Bounty.	Cost of Bounty.	Total in Dollars.	Total in Pounds sterling.
					$ c.	£ s. d.
1857	3,467	866	2,601	$50 or £10 8s. 4d. each.	130,050 0	27,093 15 0
1858	1,333	334	999		49,950 0	10,406 5 0
1859	1,532	383	1,149		57,450 0	11,968 15 0
1861	1,085	272	813		40,650 0	8,468 15 0
	7,417	1,855	5,562		278,100 0	57,937 10 0
1862	2,777	695	2,082		104,100 0	21,687 10 0
	10,194	2,550	7,644		382,200 0	79,625 0 0

Encl. 5 in No. 47.

Enclosure 5 in No. 47.

COMBINED COURT.

THE special session of the Combined Court met shortly after 12 o'clock. All the members were present except Mr. Rose, who was absent from indisposition.

The Governor opened the Court by reading the following speech :—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Court of Policy,

Gentlemen of the College of Financial Representatives,

Acting under the advice of the Honourable the Court of Policy, I have requested your attendance here this day for the purpose of laying before you certain important matters connected with immigration, and of ascertaining,—First, whether you are of opinion that your resolutions of 1855 and 1856 ought to be so altered as to require employers to pay, in cash, the passage money or bounty dues in respect to Coolies indentured to them; secondly, whether you are of opinion that provision ought to be made for the payment of expenses to be incurred in India for continued immigration after the close of the season of 1856 and 1857.

The Court will remember that at their session of 1855 they resolved that the planter should, for the future, pay the cost of the introduction of the immigrant, at the assumed rate of £50 each, with the assistance of a loan by which he might be enabled to spread the payment over five years; and the Ordinances No. 8 and No. 16, of 1855, were passed for the purpose of giving effect to those resolutions.

In 1856 resolutions were passed in a similar spirit with respect to Coolies willing to take bounty; and the Ordinances No. 22 and No. 23, of 1856, were enacted for the same purpose. Under the first arrangement advances were made out of the Colonial revenues for the Coolies who arrived in 1856, to the amount of £75,896 05, of which £17,085 were repaid by the employers in cash; £15,546 05 must be charged against the Colonial Revenues for the difference between £50 and the actual cost of each Coolie; £31,200 have been raised by the issue of Immigration Loan Bonds; and £12,065 consequently still remain outstanding as advances. For the season of 1856 and 1857 it became necessary that arrangements should be made before I could learn whether the Imperial guarantee would be given to the loan proposed to be raised under the Ordinance No. 16 of 1855; and I ventured, notwithstanding, to assure the Secretary of State that he might with safety order from India the Coolies required, as I was confident that the funds would be forthcoming for the cost of their passages. Consequently, after learning that the

home guarantee could not be obtained, the Government, on the 10th July last, addressed a letter to all the influential capitalists in England connected with the colony, pointing out that funds must be provided by the end of the current year for the expenses of the approaching season. The Loan Commissioners made corresponding efforts here and at home.

When, however, it was found that no reliance could be placed on the negotiation of a loan at home, the Government felt that steps must be taken for preserving the credit of the colony. They neither lost sight of nor disregarded the inconvenience which might ensue to some applicants for immigrants, from a demand for the payment of the whole of the passage money in cash; but they conceived that no injury could thus be done, even to them, which would bear any comparison with the disastrous results inseparable from a failure to meet the obligations entered into on behalf of the colony; and therefore the Government Secretary was directed, with the full concurrence of the Honourable the Court of Policy, to address a circular letter to those planters who had applied for immigrants, warning them that in the absence of other provision I might, on the arrival of the Coolies, be compelled to assign them to employers willing to pay the passage money in cash.

Since that circular was issued, the Loan Commissioners have been informed by their correspondents at home that the loan cannot be negotiated; that it is to be regretted, that with the present prices of sugar those estates which want labourers do not at once pay for all they require, and that the character of the colony will suffer, if, under existing circumstances, she requires a loan to assist the planter. The amount to be paid may be estimated at $216,000.

I will now address myself to the question of bounty. In the course of the present year advances have been made from the public chest for this service to the amount of $53,000, of which $17,810 have been repaid by the employers, and the remainder has been covered by the transfer of stock from the Savings Bank, and the issue to that institution of bonds for a corresponding sum. It is probable that about $15,000 more may be required up to the end of this year, which can be provided in the same manner. This subject presents itself, however, in a more serious form for the year 1857. From the best information I have been able to obtain, we may reckon that 3,467 Coolies will become entitled to their back passages in the course of the year, at a cost, taken at 14*l.* per head, of $232,982. But, judging from the experience of the current year, we may hope that about three-fourths, or 2,600, will be found willing to remain a further period of five years; and in that case the bounty to be paid by the employers would amount to $130,000, of which not more than $50,000 could, in my opinion, be raised under the Bounty Loan Ordinance.

Lastly, gentlemen, I have to inform you, that from a report lately furnished by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, we learn that the British Guiana Guaranteed Loan will, for practical purposes, be exhausted at the close of the operations of the season of 1856-7. If, therefore, you wish immigration to be longer maintained, it will be necessary for you to satisfy the Secretary of State that provision will be made for expenses to be incurred in India, as well as for the passage money to be paid here.

And I am glad to have this opportunity of laying before you the rules which Her Majesty's Governmentcontemplate proposing to the Court of Directors, for the management of immigration to be conducted by private parties. The Secretary of State invites the suggestions of the colonial authorities; and I entertain a strong hope, that if your general arrangements be placed upon a satisfactory footing, you may be enabled to obtain the concession of a boon which you have so long deserved.

(Signed) P. E. Wodehouse.

November 28, 1856.

Enclosure 6 in No. 47.

Guiana Public Buildings,
Tuesday, December 2, 1856.

The Combined Court met this morning at 12 o'clock; present, all the members except Mr. Rose.

Mr. Buie, the Vice-President of the Financial College, read the following Reply to the Speech of His Excellency:—

May it please your Excellency,

We duly appreciate the motive which induced your Excellency, on the advice of the Court of Policy, to convene this Extraordinary Session of the Combined Court, and thank you for the speech delivered on opening the same.

We consider that Ordinances No. 7, 1854, and No. 8, 1855, founded upon resolutions of this Court, embrace the whole question of immigration; and that the carrying out of those laws in their integrity will be only acting in good faith to all parties concerned. We are, therefore, of opinion, that the resolutions alluded to by your Excellency should not be altered.

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A compact has been entered into between the colony and the planters, which, as it has not been broken by the latter, ought to be considered binding on the former.

We may be permitted to take notice of your Excellency's Minute of the 18th November to the Court of Policy, which has been laid before us. Your Excellency therein states, that the liabilities of the planter (meaning of course the colony, for the planter's liability consists in complying with the terms of the Ordinance, by which he has to pay a certain amount in cash, and in paying at maturity the notes which he gives for the balance) are composed of the following items for the years 1857, 1858:—

For new Coolies, 1856–7	£215,000 0
„ Bounty in 1857	130,050 0
„ Bounty in 1858	49,950 0
Promissory Notes falling due in 1857–8	70,000 0
Making together	£465,000 0

As we conceive this to be an erroneous view of the matter, we beg to place the following statement of the case before your Excellency, having assumed your own data and figures to be correct:—

Your Excellency's statement amounts to		£465,000 0
In this is included an amount of notes falling due in 1857–8, which is an asset and not a liability, and therefore must be deducted		70,000 0
Leaving		£395,000 0
To meet this we have the said notes falling due in 1857–8	£70,000 0	
Taking the new Coolies for 1856–7, according to your Excellency's figures, at 4,300, the planters will pay at once £5 per head cash	21,500 0	
Notes for the same falling due in 1858	21,500 0	
Cash on 2,601 Coolies, receiving bounty in 1857 at $5 each	13,005 0	
Notes for the same falling due in 1858	13,005 0	
Cash on 999 Coolies receiving bounty in 1858, at £5	4,995 0	
		£144,005 0
Leaving		$250,995 0

Showing that your Excellency is in error to the amount of no less a sum than $214,005.

We do not consider the sum of $250,995 a very large amount to be in advance to the planters at six per cent. per annum, when the colony has a first lien on their property for it, and when immigration is a public benefit. Besides, we learn that many planters are in the habit of availing themselves of the 3rd section of Ordinance No. 8, 1855, and paying up at once the whole cost of £50 a head for the Coolies assigned them, which probably might reduce the above balance by £100,000.

We also find that the balance of cash in the Treasury on the 29th November was		£82,299 40
And notes payable within a month		57,202 30
Balance of cash in Berbice on 15th November	£20,042 78	
Less accounted for in the Treasury above	12,000 0	
		8,042 78
		£147,544 48

We find that the payments from the Treasury in December 1855 exceeded the receipts by £20,000; we therefore deduct a similar amount from the above balance — 20,000 0

which would leave a cash balance at the end of the year in the Treasury of £127,544 48

We find by statements laid over that Savings' Bank funds, deposited at an interest of 3 per cent., are as follows:—

In the Colonial Bank	£ 6,000 0
In the British Guiana Bank	41,583 93
Ditto ditto Berbice	5,000 0
	£72,583 93
Deduct from the above the amount stated by your Excellency as required to pay bounties to the end of the year of	15,000 0
Leaving	£ 57,583 93

which we think might be better invested at a rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

It is with much regret we observe that the correspondence of the Loan Commissioners consists merely of letters dated Demerara, 6th and 18th of September of this year, asking certain gentlemen to act as agents in England; and we are at a loss to understand why the delay of a year should have taken place before this was done; and it is most extraordinary that the Government should have written and forwarded such a circular as that of the 10th July before any steps whatever had been taken by the Loan Commissioners to raise the money in England under the Ordinance.

We differ from your Excellency as to the construction to be put on the corespondence between the Loan Commissioners and their correspondents in Europe, as only one of those gentlemen's opinion warrants your Excellency's interpretation.

We need not reiterate the often expressed opinion, that a continued stream of immigration is absolutely necessary to the prosperity of this colony, and that without it the whole fabric of Government must be impaired. The present prosperity of the colony is entirely owing to immigration; your Excellency will, therefore, see, that there can be no question or doubt of our being prepared at the proper time to make provision for the expenses to be incurred in India as well as for the passage money to be paid here.

We notice your Excellency's statement regarding immigration being conducted by private parties, and hope this act of justice on the part of Her Majesty's Government may not be long delayed in being carried into effect.

We trust we have now pointed out to your Excellency that there are available funds to meet the present exigencies.

Balance of Cash in the Treasury - - - - - -	$127,544 48
In Savings' Bank Deposits - - - - - -	57,583 93
And probable payments in Cash under Ordinance No. 8, 1855 - -	100,000 0
	$285,128 41
To meet the payment, as stated in your Excellency's speech, of - -	215,000 0
Leaving a surplus of - - - - - - -	$70,128 41

(Signed) JOHN CAMERON,
HENRY CLEMENTSON,
WM. BUIE, V.P., F.R.,
EDMUND T. HENERY, F.R.,
EDWARD BORMAN, F.R.,
FRANS. W. WHITNEY, F.R.,
JOHN JONES, F.R.,
WM. ALTY, F.R.

Financial Hall, 2nd December 1856.

Enclosure 7 in No. 47.

Encl. 7 in No. 47.

THE Acting Government Secretary read the following Extracts from the Despatches :—

(No. 1.)

Extract of Despatch from the Governor to the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, No. 36, March 24th, 1855, transmitting Resolutions of the Combined Court of the 20th March 1855 (vide page 171).

The result was that, after some further discussion, the resolutions proposed by Mr. Luckie were carried without alteration by a majority of eleven to four. Reports of the debates on both days are herewith forwarded for your information.

6. This discussion has confirmed the intimation conveyed in my Despatch No. 95,* of the 9th December last, of my confidence that the planters would be so fully convinced of the absolute necessity of the continuance of immigration, that they would take upon themselves a sufficient share of its cost, to prevent the colony from increasing its permanent debt. And I hope you will allow me to impress upon you most earnestly, that the continuance of immigration is indispensable, as the only available means of preserving this fine colony from ruin. The extension from five to ten years of the period of residence of the Indian immigrant, and the confirmation of the Immigration Ordinance, have both tended to increase greatly the value of the immigrants, and to reduce the pressure of the heavy charge for back passages. It would, therefore, be the cause of bitter disappointment if a check to the influx of labour should be now interposed, and the extinction of the sugar cultivation would be the inevitable result. The Creole population would at once take advantage of such a contingency to make demands for wages not only far beyond the value of any work which they would perform, but beyond what the planters could, in the present state of the markets, possibly afford to pay.

* Page 170.

8. Indeed there is no possibility of denying the existence of the evils to which Lord Grey alluded so strongly in his Despatch No. 56, of the 1st June 1849, and which he justly attributed to the erroneous system of government which prevailed for some years after the emancipation of the negroes. How the progress of those evils is to be now arrested, and how the Creole population is to be brought into habits of order, decency, and industry, habits quite as essential to their own permanent good as to the benefit of the planters, it is most difficult to discover. But I do hope that Her Majesty's Government, while they continue to urge the colonists to improve the moral condition of the mass of the people by the diffusion of religion and education, will afford them due

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encouragement by promoting that steady influx of immigrants from our Eastern possessions by which alone they can hope to maintain their ground. The condition of the latter, I can testify from personal experience, is improved by their transfer to this country.

(No. 2.)

Extract of Despatch from Lord John Russell to the Governor, No. 29, of the 29th June 1855 (page 74).

3. I have to express my concurrence in the principle of the measure which you have thus submitted to me, and although it would have been more satisfactory, had it been possible, to dispense with the raising of further loans for immigration services, even to the proposed extent, you have my authority for laying before the local Legislature whatever laws may be required for bringing your proposed measure into active operation.

(No. 3.)

Extract of a Letter from the Secretary to the Treasury to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, June 18, 1855 (vide page 76).

Their Lordships desire me to request you will state to Lord John Russell that they will not object to the proposal of Governor Wodehouse to raise a further sum on account of immigration into British Guiana, subject to the condition that the money so raised shall be repaid to the extent and in the manner recommended by the Governor, by means of annual instalments to be received from the planters.

Their Lordships regret to observe that the expenditure for this object cannot be defrayed without having recourse to a further loan, and that the revenue of the colony is likely to be burthened with some additional charge on this account. They cannot hold out the expectation that any further loan for this purpose can be raised under the guarantee of the Imperial Government.

Mr. Porter—What date was that?

Acting Government Secretary—June 18, 1855.

Mr. Netscher—Oh! 1855.

Governor—That was before the Ordinance was passed.

(No. 4.)

Extract of Despatch from the Governor to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, No. 121, of the 25th August 1855, submitting for confirmation the Ordinance, No. 16 of 1855 (vide page 178.)

6. Having thus brought under your Lordship's notice the principal sections of an Ordinance which has been framed with every desire to render it worthy the approval of Her Majesty's Government, I hope I may be permitted to offer some observations upon your separate Despatch of the 29th June last, enclosing the copy of a letter in which the Lords of the Treasury state that they cannot hold out an expectation that any further loan for emigration can be raised under the guarantee of the Imperial Government. I shall not disguise from your Lordship that I have refrained from giving publicity to this intimation, and have contented myself with expressing great doubts of our obtaining any such guarantee; being not altogether without hope that Her Majesty's Government might be induced by certain circumstances to reconsider their determination.

7. It is quite unnecessary for me to waste time in attempting to convince your Lordship of the certain heavy loss to which the colony must be subjected, if compelled to negotiate this loan upon its own credit alone. That is a subject upon which no doubt whatever can be entertained. I shall only beg you to consider whether the Home Government is really called upon, from a sense of duty, to do this injury, or more strictly speaking, to cause this loss to the colony, by withholding its countenance on the present occasion. We have met all our engagements. We shrink from no burthens. The planters are making every exertion; and my own belief is, that with continued immigration we may maintain our position. It has also occurred to me that the Lords of the Treasury may not have taken into consideration the very limited liability to which, under the present scheme, they would of necessity subject themselves by undertaking this guarantee. It is probable that the average sum likely to be required annually will not exceed 30,000*l.*; and their Lordships will at all times have it in their power, if dissatisfied with the aspect of affairs, to refuse to lend their support to any further operations. I can scarcely think that when the matter is thus put before them, they will feel bound to adhere to their present decision, and in the event of their so directing me, I shall be quite prepared to propose to the Combined Court the establishment of certain taxes as a special security during the continuance of the loan.

(No. 5.)

Extract of Despatch, No. 24, of 16th January 1856, from Mr. Labouchere to the Governor (vide page 82.)

The subject to which this Ordinance relates is undoubtedly one of great importance to the welfare of the colony, and Her Majesty's Government have been anxious to acquiesce in the measures considered expedient upon this matter by yourself and the Legislature. At the same time it is my duty to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and to draw your attention to the apprehension expressed by their Lordships, that you are not sufficiently impressed with the necessity of confining the expenditure of the colony within such limits as may allow of its being provided for without the intervention of the Imperial Government. I must also notice some of the views which you would appear to entertain on the subject of a guarantee. You express your hope that Her Majesty's advisers will not feel themselves bound to do the colony the injury, or at all events expose it to the loss which must result from withholding a guarantee of the proposed loan. From the use of this language it must be supposed that you view an Imperial guarantee to colonial loans as a kind of right, or an accommodation of which the denial constitutes a grievance. The meaning of a guarantee, I must, therefore, remind you, is, that if from a deficiency of revenue the parties raising the loan should be unable to fulfil its conditions, the money is to be made good from the public revenues of this country. Her Majesty's Government are bound to view this as a real liability, nor at a time when the people of this country are heavily burthened for the expenses of a costly foreign war, is it a light responsibility to make them also answerable for the pecuniary results of distant colonial enterprises, in which they have little voice, and on which any intervention of their government is apt to be resented.

Many colonial projects of very questionable prudence are acquiesced in by Her Majesty's Government from an unwillingness to interfere with the judgment of those most interested on the spot; but it would be doing a most substantial injustice to the people of this country if they were to be rendered liable, by furnishing this kind of guarantee, for the consequences of such projects.

Moreover, if the pleas urged by you were admitted, it is by no means for British Guiana alone that they would be valid; out of the (500,000*l.*) five hundred thousand pounds already guaranteed by Parliament for the West Indies, British Guiana alone has had (250,000*l.*) two hundred and fifty thousand pounds; other colonies in other parts of the world would also have their claims; and when, therefore, you allude to the smallness of the sum now in question, I have merely to inform you that the loans now before me which various colonies have contracted or proposed to contract, and in respect of which application is made for Imperial guarantees, amount to more than (20,000,000*l.*) twenty millions sterling.

(No. 6.)

Enclosure of preceding Despatch. Copy of Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (vide page 83.)

Sir, Treasury Chambers, November 21, 1855.

With reference to your letter of the 13th ultimo, transmitting an Ordinance lately passed by the Legislature of British Guiana for raising a loan for the introduction of Indian immigrants, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State, that my Lords will not object to the confirmation of this Ordinance.

Their Lordships have already, in their letter of the 18th June last, expressed their opinion upon the proposal to raise a further loan for British Guiana upon a guarantee of the Imperial Government, and they perceive no grounds whatever, in the papers now transmitted, for altering the view they then took of the inexpediency of proposing to Parliament a further guarantee for this purpose. They would remind the Secretary of State, that no less than 250,000*l.* was allowed to British Guiana, out of the 500,000*l.* authorized by the Act 11 & 12 Vict. cap. 130, and they regret to observe, that Governor Wodehouse does not appear sufficiently impressed with the necessity of confining the expenditure of the colony within such limits as may allow of its being provided for without the intervention of the Imperial Government.

I am, &c.

John Ball, Esq., M.P. (Signed) C. E. Trevelyan.

Enclosure 8 in No. 47. Encl. 8 in No. 47.

Memorandum.

I have given the best consideration which the time allowed me would permit to the reply of some of the members of this Court to the speech which I had the honour of addressing to them on the 28th ultimo; and regret having been forced to the conclusion

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that the reasoning contained in the reply is in the main erroneous, and that the error is throughout attributable to the mistaken statement made at the outset, that the Ordinances No. 7 of 1854, and No. 8 of 1855, "embrace the whole question of immigration."

The latter of those Ordinances was founded upon the resolutions of the 20th March, 1855, of which I will recite the principal:—

"4. Resolved,—That the Governor and the Court of Policy be requested to pass an "Ordinance for raising, upon the guarantee of the colonial revenues, such sum as may be "required for payment of the passage of Indian immigrants to this colony after 1855; "for binding the estates, on behalf of which application may be made for such immigrants, "to take such as may be allotted to them; for rendering each such estate liable for the "payment of £20 in addition to the sum now payable; the said £20 to be payable as "follows:—£10 with interest for the fourth year of indenture, and $10 with interest "for the fifth year of indenture; and for declaring that in the event of the immigrant "entering into indenture to serve upon some other estate at the expiration of the first "three years, or at the expiration of the fourth year after his arrival, such other estate "shall then for the payment become liable to pay the said sum of £10 due on account of "such year."

So far, therefore, from the Ordinance No. 7 of 1854, and No. 8 of 1855, "embracing the whole question," it must be clear that the carrying out of the latter, which embodied the *latter* part of the resolution I have quoted, was entirely dependent upon the success of Ordinance No. 16 of 1855, which gave effect to the *first* part of the same resolution. The reply of the Court has, however, ignored the existence of No. 16, from the failure of which our present difficulties altogether arise, and for overcoming which I am unable to discover that any practicable suggestion has been made in the reply.

My arguments were based upon the fact that the three Ordinances, and not the two, "embraced the whole scheme;" and consequently, when I spoke of liabilities, I referred not to those of the colony, as you seem to have assumed, but to those which, owing to the failure of Ordinance No. 16, were or would become those of the planters. The sum of £70,000, which has been taken in the reply as assets of the colony, I must therefore still regard as debts of the planters, making the whole of their liabilities, as before stated, $465,000.

Having thus explained the fundamental difference between us, I will not enter in detail into the calculations contained in the reply. But I am compelled to observe, with reference to the assumption that £100,000 will be voluntarily paid in cash, that it would be in the highest degree unfair to give those employers who have not yet replied to the Circular of the 5th ultimo the benefit of five years' credit at the expense of others who have, in consequence of that letter, undertaken to pay in cash.

Lastly, I would call the attention of the Court to the concluding paragraph of the reply, which speaks of the balance of cash in the Treasury as available to meet the present exigencies. Here, again, there is the same apparent disregard of the provisions of Ordinance No. 16 of 1855. The 2d section enacts that the Loan Commissioners, on receiving an intimation from the Governor of money having been advanced, *or having become due*, may issue bonds to meet the demand; the obvious meaning being that the advances, if made at all, should be of a strictly temporary character. During the past season, therefore, I did, as a measure of economy, authorize advances to be made out of the Colonial Chest to an extent which I knew could be repaid on demand. But the matter assumes a very different form when I have the certainty that any further advances to be so made will only be recovered in full in five years. Advances of such a nature for the next season would be quite contrary to the spirit of the Ordinance, and would be manifestly imprudent and improper in the face of liabilities for back passages amounting, if claimed, to £232,982. I sincerely hope that the Court will fairly grapple with the undeniable fact that we have not been, and are not likely to be, able to borrow the funds needed for carrying out the original plan; and that bearing in mind the disfavour with which Her Majesty's Government regard a continuance of the unsound system of fostering private speculations with the public revenues, the Court will provide for the maintenance of the credit of the colony, and the promotion of its prosperity.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

December 3, 1856.

Encl. 9 in No. 47.

Enclosure 9 in No. 47.

Mr. Whitney moved—

"That considering the vital importance of immigration to the interests of this colony, "this Court pledges itself at its next ordinary session to provide the necessary funds for "the payment of expenses to be incurred in India for continued immigration for the "season 1857-58."

The motion was agreed to.

At the suggestion of Mr. Porter, Mr. Jones withdrew his resolution in favour of a string of resolutions drawn up by the Attorney General. After considerable discussion, the following resolutions were proposed *seriatim*, and agreed to: —

"Resolved—1st. That this Court is of opinion that continued immigration is essential to "the welfare of the colony, and that it is incumbent on the Court to maintain by all the "means in its power the credit of the colony.

"2d. That this Court adheres to the determination come to by the Combined Court "of 1855, that the cost of the passage hither of Indian immigrants, at an assumed rate of "$50 per adult, shall be paid by the employers to whom they may be indentured.

"3d. That considering that Her Majesty's Government have declined to guarantee any "loan for the further introduction of immigrants, and for other reasons, it will be for the "benefit of the colony that the amount be paid in cash, in the seasons 1856-57 and "1857-58; but that instead of the payment for each Coolie immigrant being computed at "the rate of $10 per annum, the services for the last two years shall be considered "equivalent to the services for the first three, and that if the immigrant shall be "reindentured to a new employer, such new employer shall repay the first employer the "sum of $25, with interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum from the date of the "original indenture.

"4th. That looking to the benefit derived by the colony from the postponement of back "passages, this Court is of opinion that employers should be allowed to pay in cash "one-half only of the bounty at the time of indenture, and to give promissory notes, "payable in three years after date, for the remainder.

"5th. That the Governor be authorized, if he shall think fit, in the event of the Bounty "Loan Commissioners being unable to raise funds sufficient for the payment of one-half, "to advance the same out of the colonial revenues.

"6th. That the Governor be requested to ascertain from the proprietors of estates what "number of Coolies they may be desirous of obtaining from India in the season of "1857-8, and to what number of Coolies they will be prepared to pay bounty in 1857, on "the terms above mentioned, and to intimate that their answers will be rendered legally "binding upon them to the extent of such number as may be allotted to them in "consequence of such applications.

"7th. That the Governor be requested to inform the Secretary of State that this "Court pledges the colony to pay any expenses that may be incurred in India, or for the "passage hither of the Coolies who may be so applied for.

"8th. That the Governor be requested to solicit, at the hands of Her Majesty's "Government, a reconsideration of the heavy obligation imposed upon the colony of "providing back passages for Coolies at the end of five years' industrial residence, and "to urge that the immigrants be permitted to commute their right to such back passages "upon such terms as may be considered reasonable.

"9th. That the Governor be further requested to apply to Her Majesty's Government "to guarantee a loan sufficient to cover the cost of the back passages, or the commutation.

"10th. That this Court learn with satisfaction, that Her Majesty's Government are "disposed to recommend the establishment of immigration by private enterprise from "Bombay, and have every hope that the arrangement, with such modifications as the "Governor and the Court of Policy may find it necessary to recommend, will receive the "assent of the Court of Directors of the East India Company; and that His Excellency "the Governor and the Court of Policy be recommended to request Her Majesty's "Government to extend the same system to the ports of Calcutta and Madras as has been "conceded to Bombay.

"11th. That the Governor be requested to communicate to the Secretary of State "the earnest desire of this Court that Her Majesty's Government will be pleased to "sanction immigration from China to this colony by means of private enterprise, upon "the distinct understanding that a fixed proportion of females shall be introduced by "each ship."

No. 48.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 155.)

Government House, Georgetown,
December 9, 1856.

(Received, January 5, 1857.)

(Answered, No. 226, February 26, 1857, p. 115.)

Sir,

By my Despatch, No. 153,* of the 6th instant, I had the honour of informing you that the letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, forwarded with your Despatch No. 165,† of the 22nd October, had been laid before the Combined Court at a Special Session. It has since been under the consideration of the Court of Policy, and I beg now to submit the draft of

* Page 204.

† Page 99.

Enclosure.

BRITISH GUIANA.

"proposed rules for the introduction of Indian immigrants on private account," in which are embodied the modifications which we would propose of the plan transmitted with your Despatch, and which modifications are the necessary consequences of the late resolutions of the Legislature, to the effect that employers shall in future pay in cash the passage money of immigrants indentured to them, and that the colony shall bear all expenses incurred in India previous to their embarkation. You will not fail to perceive with what ease all our future transactions can be conducted, in the event of this plan being fairly brought into operation; and I am inclined to hope that the East India Company will be satisfied that we do not open the door to any abuses, nor deprive the emigrants of any protection, although we shall undoubtedly extricate the Colonial Government from the embarrassing obligation of having to provide both funds and freight for the conveyance of them to this country.

Looking at the question in this light, I hope I may support the request of the Combined Court, that the new system may be extended to Calcutta and Madras as well as to Bombay; and that I may likewise beg you to reconsider that part of the proposed rules which empower the Governor to take away the Coolies from the licencees, in the event of their having met with bad treatment on the voyage. It has been urged with much reason, that the planter cannot, with any amount of precaution, secure himself altogether against misconduct on the part of the officers of the ship—that the removal of the Coolies will subject him to a loss which he cannot compel the captain or the owner to make good—and that the ultimate position of the Coolies themselves will be in no degree improved by the transfer.

The planters would, therefore, wish that a specific penalty should be imposed, in order that if it were recovered from them under their bonds, they might themselves have a right of action against the owner or the captain of the ship, and I trust you will not object to this alteration.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

Encl. in No. 48.

Enclosure in No. 48.

Proposed Rules for the Introduction of Indian Immigrants on private Account.

1.—An Emigration Agent shall be appointed by the Secretary of State for the Port of Bombay, to whom shall be entrusted the duties of procuring, maintaining at Bombay, and shipping on board of vessels, to be provided by licensed parties, such number of emigrants as may from time to time be applied for by the Governor of British Guiana.

2.—Any person or persons who may be desirous of introducing into British Guiana at his or their expense immigrants under contracts to serve upon his or their plantations, shall apply for a licence to that effect from the Governor, stating the number required for each plantation; and the Governor may grant or refuse the licence at his pleasure.

3.—Before any such licence shall be granted, the person or persons applying for the same shall enter into a bond with two sureties, under a penalty of 2,000*l*., for the performance of the following conditions, viz.:—That the space required by the Indian law (viz., 12 feet per statute adult) shall be allowed to the emigrants in the between decks, and also such part of the upper deck as shall be set apart for them by the Protector at Bombay; that issues of food and water shall be made according to the annexed or such other scale as may be authorized by the Secretary of State or the Court of Directors of the East India Company; that they shall receive the requisite medicines and medical attendance; that they shall not be allowed to purchase spirituous liquors; that no intercourse shall be allowed between the crew and the females on board; and that the emigrants generally shall be subject to no ill-usage; and likewise that he or they will repay any expenses that may be incurred for collecting and maintaining any emigrants for whom he or they may fail to provide passages, together with any fees that may be due in respect of them.

4.—The Governor shall on granting any such licence forward to the Emigration Agent instructions to collect the required number of emigrants, and state the time at which they should be ready for embarkation.

5.—The Governor shall furnish, for the information of the Court of Directors, and of all concerned, a copy of the contract to be entered into by the emigrants before embarkation.

6.—The duties of the Emigration Agent shall be performed subject to the constant inspection of the Protector of emigrants at Bombay, who shall at all times have access to the depôt, and every facility for ascertaining the propriety of the proceedings.

7.—No emigrant ship shall clear out without the authority of the Protector of emigrants, who shall first ascertain that the emigrants are leaving their country voluntarily; that

their contracts are on the approved form, and that they have an adequate understanding of the nature of them, and generally of what they are doing; that the ship in which they are embarked is seaworthy, and provided with all things proper for the voyage; with the requisite fittings, stores, and medicines; with an European surgeon, and with an interpreter approved by the Protector; that the between decks are properly ventilated; that proper space is allowed for the emigrants there and on the upper deck for exercise; and that the required proportion of females is placed on board. The Protector shall sign and deliver to the master, for production to the authorities in British Guiana, a list of the emigrants placed on board, on which he shall endorse any information which it is desirable to communicate to those authorities.

8.—The Immigration Agent General and the Health Officer shall board every ship arriving from Bombay, and ascertain by examination of the diary to be kept by the surgeon, and by other means, the number of deaths and the general condition of the immigrants during the voyage. And if the immigrants shall not have been treated according to the terms of the licence, such officers shall make a report to the Governor, who shall be at liberty, if he shall think fit, to allot the immigrants to other employers, as well as to put the bond in suit.

9.—The Report of the Immigration Agent General and the Health Officer on every ship, and the proceedings taken upon it by the authorities, shall be communicated to the Secretary of State.

10.—The Colony shall be bound to pay to the Emigration Agent a fee of 3 rupees (or such other sum as may be fixed by Her Majesty's Government) for each emigrant shipped or brought to Bombay for embarkation, as well as any expenses which may be incurred for collecting the emigrants and maintaining them at Bombay. These payments shall be made through the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.

11.—The Emigration Agent shall, on the departure of each ship, endorse on the Protector's list, and also transmit by post to the Governor of British Guiana, a certificate of all expenses incurred on account of the emigrants on board; and shall at the close of every season transmit to the Governor a statement of all expenses incurred in the course of it.

DRAFT CONTRACT.

Be it remembered, that on the day of 185 , appeared before me Protector of emigrants at the Port of Bombay, the persons whose names are under mentioned, and in my presence signed their names (or marks) to the following agreement:—

We, the undersigned, do hereby agree to go to the colony of British Guiana, there to reside for the space of ten years, on the conditions following:—That we shall on arrival enter into contracts to serve as agricultural labourers for the wages paid to labourers not under indentures, on plantation or or on such other plantation as may be assigned by the Governor of the said colony, for the term of three years, and thereafter for the further term of two years upon the same plantations, or such others as he may select; and that after the expiration of the term of five years we shall enter into annual contracts to serve as aforesaid upon some plantation for each of the five following years, or shall in default pay to the Immigration Agent General of the said colony the sum of 2*l.* 10*s.* or $12 for each such year; and that we shall during the said term of ten years comply with the laws relating to immigrants; and upon the further condition that we shall be provided, upon application, to be made within 18 months after the expiration of the said term of ten years, free of cost with a passage back to the Port of Bombay.

No. 49.

No. 49.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 1.)

Government House, Georgetown,
January 6, 1857.
(Received February 2, 1857.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 180,* of the 24th November last, and to enclose a resolution passed by the Court of Policy, which will I hope be satisfactory to you.

* Page 104.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure in No. 49.

Encl. in No. 49.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, at its Extraordinary Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Tuesday, 30th December 1856.

[After Prayers.]

THE Honourable Mr. Porter moves and the Honourable Mr. Netscher seconds the following resolution:—

Resolved, that this Court is fully of opinion that any Indian immigrant accepting bounty under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 22 of 1856, and complying with the terms of the engagement then entered into, will, at the expiration of his renewed term of service, be entitled to a back passage, in like manner as immigrants who may have completed the first term of service after their arrival in the colony.

Resolution agreed to.

True Extract.
(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Secretary.

No. 50.

No. 50.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 4.)

Government House, Georgetown,
January 8, 1857.
(Received February 2, 1857.)

SIR,

I BEG leave to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 193,* of the 11th ultimo, and to state that the planters have already agreed to pay ready money for 3,000 Coolies. I am, therefore, under no apprehension in respect to the payment of the freight for all that are likely to arrive during the present season.

* Page 111.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 51.

No. 51.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 5.)

Government House, Georgetown,
January 8, 1857.
(Received February 2, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 219, February 14, 1857, p. 115.)

SIR,

I LOSE no time in acknowledging the receipt of your Despatch, No. 191,† of the 9th ultimo, and in requesting that you will be good enough to furnish me, with the least possible delay, with distinct instructions as to the course to be taken with respect to the Coolies about to arrive from Madras, to whom Mr. Thomson has promised back passages at the end of five years.

† Page 108.

The Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners have signified to him their disapproval of this promise, which is totally at variance with all our legal and financial arrangements; but I should be glad to be informed whether the Coolies are to be told, on their arrival, that this promise, as being contrary to law, cannot be carried out, or whether, in consideration of their having left India upon the faith of it, I am to endeavour to bring about its fulfilment.

You will readily believe that such a concession to these Coolies will cause great confusion, and will be extremely unpalatable to the colonists; and you will, I hope, admit that as these inconveniences have arisen out of the act of a public officer over whom I have no sort of control, I may fairly claim to be relieved of the responsibility of deciding upon the course to be pursued in consequence of it.

I shall, no doubt, have to address you again upon the subject of this Despatch; but I cannot now refrain from observing, that the facts reported in Mr. Thomson's letters, coupled with the very high prices now paid by the

consumers at home for sugar, might have great weight in disposing Her Majesty's Government to promote that immigration from China which I am aware that the West India interest at home is at present anxiously endeavouring to establish. BRITISH GUIANA.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 52. No. 52.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 9.) Government House, Georgetown, January 21, 1857.

(Received February 20, 1857.)

Sir, (Answered, No. 235, March 27, 1857, p. 120.)

I have the honour to forward the reports of the Immigration Agent General and the Health Officer, upon the ship "Wellesley," which has arrived with immigrants from Calcutta.

You will perceive from these papers, that although the ship is a very fine one, and made a good passage, and every attention was paid to the immigrants, the deaths have amounted to twenty-two. And I hope I may be permitted, in reference to your circular Despatch* of the 8th December last, to submit very respectfully whether it will not have a discouraging and prejudicial effect upon the officers of these vessels, if their personal remuneration is in future to be altogether withheld, whenever the mortality during the voyage may, from whatever cause, exceed two per cent. * Page 107.

In the present instance I have authorized the payment to Captain Parish of the usual allowance of one dollar per head.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 53. No. 53.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 13.) Government House, Georgetown, January 24, 1857.

Sir, (Received February 20, 1857.)

(Answered, No. 237, April 1, 1857, p. 121.)

I have the honour to submit, for the confirmation of Her Majesty, an Ordinance, No. 1 of 1857, "to regulate Indian Immigration during the "seasons of 1856–7 and 1857–8, and the payment of bounty." Vide Appendix No. 8.

The Ordinance has been passed for the purpose of giving effect to five of the resolutions of the Combined Court, which were transmitted with my Despatch, No. 153,† of the 6th December last, and it seems unnecessary for me to trouble you with further explanation. † Page 204.

I may mention that the proprietors have already paid for the Coolies allotted to them out of the "Wellesley," and that the freight due has been paid to the captain of the ship.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 54.

No. 54.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 23.)

Government House, Georgetown, February 20, 1857.
(Received March 24, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 252, May 6, 1857, p. 124.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to request that you will be good enough to instruct the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to make arrangements for procuring from India, in the season of 1857–8, 3,000 Coolies; as I have already received applications for that number, on condition of the payment by the applicants of the passage money immediately on their arrival.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 55.

No. 55.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 26.)

Government House, Georgetown, February 20, 1857.
(Received March 2, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 244, April 10, 1857, p. 122.)

SIR,

Enclosure 1.

I HAVE the honour to forward the reports of the Immigration Agent-General and the Health Officer upon the ships "Blue Jacket" and "Bucephalus," which have lately arrived, the former from Madras, the latter from Calcutta, with Coolies, under circumstances which require special notice. The contrast between the condition of the two ships during the voyage is most remarkable. Both of them are very fine vessels; both made favourable passages; and yet, while on board of the former only four died out of 526, on board of the latter no less than forty-five died out of 380, and 254 suffered from sickness, at an average of twenty-five per diem.

Enclosure 2.

Upon receiving intelligence of what had occurred on board of the "Bucephalus," I directed an investigation to be made at once by the Immigration Agent-General and the Health Officer, whose special report I now submit for your consideration. You will there find the few alterations of the established rules which Mr. Austin and Mr. Butts, after comparing the condition and management of the two ships, are prepared to recommend, as I think with good reason. But the inference which is above all others to be drawn from this report is, that no matter how excellent may be the rules, the well-being of the immigrants must mainly depend, as in all similar transactions, upon the judgment and efficiency with which they are carried out, or perhaps violated, by the captain and surgeon in charge. The commander of the "Blue Jacket," having had experience in the conveyance of Coolies, had no hesitation in deviating from the rules, for the purpose of preserving the health and promoting the comfort of his passengers, and received the support of the surgeon, with the best result. The commander of the "Bucephalus," on the other hand, seems to have looked upon the condition of the Coolies as a matter with which he had little or no concern. He left them altogether in the hands of the surgeon, who again had neither aptitude for command nor energy sufficient to contend with the dirty and disorderly habits of the people. His medical treatment of them, however, appears to have been satisfactory. After what has occurred in this ship, the usual gratuity will not be paid to the officers.

Enclosure 3.

In my Despatch, No. 5,* of the 8th January last, I applied for your instructions as to the course to be pursued with the Coolies shipped in the "Blue Jacket," to whom Mr. Thompson had promised return passages at the end of five years. At that time I had some hope of hearing from you before the question presented itself for decision; but it will be seen from the letter of Mr. Austin, that it became necessary to decide upon this point before the Coolies could be allotted to the several estates, and I therefore at once laid before the Court of Policy all the information I had received. The members were very

* Page 220.

naturally much dissatisfied with the conduct of Mr. Thompson; but without hesitation declared that his agreement with the Coolies must be acknowledged, and their right to return passages at the end of five years admitted.

The Court then passed the resolution which I enclose, begging for the restoration of the rule formerly in force, by which emigration to the Mauritius was suspended for the six months during which it is allowed to the West Indies. Enclosure 4.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 55. Encl. 1 in No. 55.

(No. 136.)

British Guiana. Immigration Agent-General's Office, February 17, 1857.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival, on the 1st of February, of the ship "Blue Jacket," after a passage of 77 days, from Madras, with 311 men, 121 women, 46 boys, 31 girls, 13 infants, or a total of 522 souls, equal to 470½ adults; the casualties during the voyage having been but 4, viz., 2 men and 2 infants.

The result of the "Blue Jacket's" voyage offers a favourable contrast to those of the Calcutta ships as yet arrived, and would lead one to the inference that the rule in regard to the apportioning of but 350 adults to vessels of whatever size might be relaxed with advantage to the interests of the colony, and without endangering the lives of the passengers.

It is very possible that to the care and experience of the surgeon and officers of the ship, in regulating the diet according to circumstances, and in the increased cleanliness resulting from the placing the privies outside in the chains, much of the success of the voyage may be attributed; but at all events no point adverse to the increase of the number of immigrants according to space has been drawn out, and I would respectfully suggest that this would be a fit opportunity for his Excellency the Governor to press for the relaxation of a rule which presses heavily on the resources of the colony.

I regret to have to report that three of the immigrants per "Blue Jacket" are utterly unfit for service, being hopeless idiots.

Unusual delay has occurred in the distribution of the people by this vessel owing to their determination to enter into no engagement except on the understanding that good faith should be kept in regard to the five years' industrial residence pledged by Mr. Thompson. I was anxious, agreeable to the instructions of his Excellency, to avoid all mention of the vexed question until specific instructions could be received from the Secretary of State, and had actually allotted some 80 of the people before inquiry was made by them. After this, however, their fears appears to have been excited by communications from shore, and as it was out of my power to satisfy them by binding the colony to an engagement at variance with law, and calculated to have the worst possible influence over other Indian immigrants, I was under the necessity of awaiting the decision of his Excellency the Governor and the Court of Policy.

This received, there was a disposition amongst the old return Coolies of Trinidad to claim to be sent there in virtue as they said of a special agreement to that effect made with Mr. Thompson, as also to get a reduction to three years, which I quickly met by desiring the ringleader to be sent ashore to me in charge of the police, and thereafter all went on quietly enough.

Much as our plans have been disarranged by Mr. Thompson's arrangements, it is but justice to him to state, that generally the "Blue Jacket" Coolies give satisfaction to their employers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. G. AUSTIN,
Immigration Agent-General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 55. Encl. 2 in No. 55.

(No. 137.)

British Guiana. Immigration Agent-General's Office, February 17, 1857.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival on the 3d of February of the ship "Bucephalus," after a passage of 90 days from Calcutta, with 236 men, 69 women, 17 boys, 7 girls, 6 infants, or a total of 335 souls, equal to 317 adults; the mortality during the voyage having been most lamentably heavy, viz., 16 men, 15 women, 3 boys, 2 girls, 9 infants; with every prospect of further heavy loss out of the 28 sent to the Colonial Hospital.

As a special report has already been prepared by the Health Officer and myself, agreeable to the instructions of his Excellency the Governor, it will not be necessary for me to enter at any length upon the subject on this occasion. I would, however, beg to submit my individual opinion on a few points.

BRITISH GUIANA.

As regards the selection of the immigrants, I should not be disposed to admit the justification put forward by Dr. Hatchett, of the mortality being caused by the presence of a number of "Junglees." It is quite possible that they may have been looked down upon by many of the other immigrants, and they may also have been so filthy in their habits as to require more careful looking after and stricter discipline, but they are excellent labourers in the colony, and there is no reason whatever why they should be excluded from the immigrants sent here; on the contrary, we ought to have as many of them as possible.

As in every vessel in which the dysentery has prevailed to a great extent, the surviving Coolies look pale and thin, but I am in great hopes that we have seen the worst, and that as the people of the "Bucephalus" were cheerful and active when they left the ship, that I shall be able to report favourably of them to his Excellency when I visit the estates to which they have been allotted. So many alterations and additions have been made in diet to meet the views of many after any unusual occurrence that the result has been such an enlargement of the stores as is now considered by most owners of vessels as onerous in the extreme. I am not, therefore, prepared to submit any reconstruction of the scales or alteration of the articles as arising from the catastrophe of the "Bucephalus." Ample is supplied, and the issue must be left to the judgment of those who are intrusted with the Coolies.

As regards such fitments of the vessel as have been referred to in the joint report, viz., the privies, platforms, and hospitals, I would most strongly recommend that the first should be placed outside, if the size of the vessel admits of this being done with safety. At all times these constructions must be some annoyance, but on deck, as they are now, they become an intolerable nuisance, and are well calculated to engender disease. The platforms, there can be no doubt, give an air of great comfort to a vessel, but it appears to me so desirable that the purest air to be attained should be breathed by the Coolies, that I would suggest their discontinuance and a return to the old practice of allowing the immigrants to place their blankets on the deck.

On the subject of the hospitals, I have become so thoroughly impressed with the necessity of completely isolating the sick in very many cases, that however much I may hitherto have been inclined to bend to the views of the Indian agencies in this matter, I shall not be disposed to pass any vessels from hence again unless with proper separate accommodation for the sick. I would now offer a few remarks on the causes which, in my opinion, operated on the spreading and continuance of disease and mortality during the voyage of the "Bucephalus."

When first visited by the Health Officer and myself, nothing could be cleaner and better ventilated or more generally comfortable in appearance below than this vessel. Startled as we were by the sickness and mortality reported to us, we nevertheless hoped that both the surgeon and captain might be blameless, and I should be glad if I could now come to this conclusion. As regards the surgeon, he was, perhaps, rather young to be intrusted with the important charge, and although with abundance of zeal and proper knowledge, I doubt not, to treat actual disease, was not sufficiently impressed with the necessity of averting or checking its spread by the utmost cleanliness personally and in the ship, and by the most rigid discipline. "It was only from the filthy state of his billet that he was "found out," is a remark in his journal in reference to one of the men who died. "Had "been passing blood for a fortnight; concealed his illness; did not come under treatment; "died as seen," is the case of a second. "Worms were actually crawling amidst filth in his "clothes," is the report of a third. Could this have happened had the people been properly mustered and inspected, and could a dying man have been discovered from the state of his billet had the deck been swept daily?

Allowed as the Coolies were to relieve the calls of nature on the deck on which many of them slept (a practice which I am told has always to be summarily checked), it is not to be wondered at that the stench was great, that the air was fetid; but disease was ripe and that mortality was frequent. The wonder is that the numbers were not diminished to a far greater extent. The absence of proper checks upon those committing themselves, by having lights and by placing sentries or orderlies, was most blameable in the captain, as he knew or should have known the necessities of the case as well as any one on board, and I can come to no other conclusion than that his neglect or indifference was highly culpable.

Inexperience or mistaken leniency might be the young surgeon's justification; but seeing and acknowledging, as the captain did, the necessity for greater energy, he at least should have supported the weaker judgment, or himself have assumed the control which his position required.

I presume his Excellency will approve of my declining to issue any gratuity to the captain and officers of the "Bucephalus," whatever decision may be arrived at in reference to the surgeon.

I have, &c.

The Hon. W. B. Wolseley, &c. &c.

(Signed) J. G. Austin,
Immigration Agent-General.

(No. 138.) Enclosure 3 in No. 55.

British Guiana.

SIR, Georgetown, February 17, 1857.

IN accordance with his Excellency's order of the 4th instant, relative to a report on the probable cause of mortality on board the ship "Bucephalus," during her passage from Calcutta with Coolies, we beg to submit the following.

The accommodation afforded the immigrants was as follows:—

Length of deck, 160 feet.
Beam, 34 feet.
Height, 6½ feet.

Ventilated in the following manner:—

20 large side ports (10 on each side).
12 smaller ditto, say scuttles.
6 large stern ports.
2 ventilators communicating with the main deck, one forward and one aft.
3 hatchways of usual size.
3 rows of platforms running fore and aft.
Baskets containing charcoal suspended at proper intervals.

On making inquiries of the captain as to his idea of the cause of the mortality, he made the following statement:—

"That many of the people put on board were miserably emaciated from starvation, "quite unfit to undergo a long sea voyage, and very likely to be sufferers from the sudden "transition from want to abundance.

"That he had never carried Coolies before, and had therefore no previous experience to "guide him; but would decidedly object, on a future occasion, to such people as had "been now placed on board.

"That the Coolies were allowed to remain below too much, and were only compelled to "be on deck twice a week.

"That near the Cape, the people having been roused up daily, and the sick placed on "the quarter-deck, mortality was checked, and the genearl health improved.

"That the Coolies quickly fell back, however, into the old system of remaining below, "and could only be forced up by the use of the rattan, which could only be resorted to "at the demand of the surgeon.

"That many of the Coolies voided their excrement in their clothes and the spot where "they slept, receiving but a few slaps on the face, instead of such punishment as would "have effectually checked a practice which could only result, as it did, in the most "abominable stench through the lower deck in the morning.

"That, as a mass, the Coolies refused to aid one another when sick, disregarding the "ties of relationship even."

The captain added, "That in troop ships hospital orderlies are appointed, and appeared "to him essentially necessary in Coolie ships. Everything had been done by himself to "secure cleanliness by having the closets cleaned. Had traded to the East for 20 years, "and had frequently taken troops out. Can suggest no change in the diet; but would "recommend that in all vessels of the class of the "Bucephalus," the privies should be "placed outside, and that the people should be compelled to take exercise on deck when-"ever it was fine. The weather was beautiful throughout, only four days being so "stormy as to prevent cooking. The doctor devoted his whole time to the people, and "was very attentive; indeed, to his excessive leniency and mistaken kindness is to be "attributed much of the loss sustained. He did not display that firmness and energy "in insisting on their being brought on deck, which he ought to have done. The "people sickened and died on the same spot they had located themselves on em-"barkation.

"Did not consider it incumbent on himself to require such energy on the part of the "doctor as would have secured greater cleanliness. Did not like to interfere with the "immigrants."

In vindication of himself, the surgeon observed, "That a race of Coolies, called Jun-"glees, had been improperly placed on board. That they were at all times a miserable "class. That those embarked were filthy in the extreme, as well in their persons as "in their habits, voiding and carrying their excrement for days in their clothes. That "the other people refused to associate with them, and that they spoke a language unin-"telligible to all on board but themselves. That no sickness could be detected amongst "them until beyond the aid of medical advice. That the 'musholy dholl' contributed "in a great degree to the sickness, as when cooked it appeared to be but a watery fluid, "with parts floating on the surface. That the means of cooking the medical comforts "were deficient. That there were no hospital nurses. That the lanterns provided for "the lower deck ceased to be of any use after the first night, in consequence of leakage; "made a statement to that effect to the captain, but no others were supplied. That the "officers of the ship went below daily, but the captain only a few times during the "whole of the voyage. That four of the sheep embarked for the use of the people died "of dysentery."

BRITISH GUIANA.

From the inspection made by ourselves, and from the evidence of the captain and surgeon, as detailed, we are of opinion that the "accommodation" and ventilation were excellent. That it would have contributed to the healthiness and cleanliness of the ship and people had the privies been placed outside, as in the "Blue Jacket;" not, as we are informed, by the supercargo at the instance of the emigration agent at Madras, but from his own judgment, on the which he entirely relied when once at sea. This gentleman further informed us that on his first voyage to the Mauritius he lost eight Coolies in one day from following the diet scale fixed by the authorities, and was so startled that he immediately stopped the dholl and pumpkins, and finding the result favourable, determined from thence to adhere to no regulations whatever unless coinciding with his own views. As it appears perfectly feasible from the statements of the captains of the "Bucephalus" and "Blue Jacket," we would beg to suggest that for the future, where the size of the vessel renders it safe, the privies should be placed outside, or rather with the seats hanging over.

The assertion made by the surgeon and the Coolies themselves, as to the unwholesomeness of the "musholy dholl" may be correct, but from our imperfect knowledge of it as an article of diet, we would decline giving our opinion, beyond stating that it appeared sound and good, although devoid of nourishment. As there were two kinds of dholl on board, we apprehend there could have been no difficulty in discontinuing the use of that which appeared not only distasteful but injurious to the people. The want of milk (that placed on board being bad), and the difficulty experienced in preparing the medical comforts, was no doubt a serious evil. The only supply of fresh meat was comprised in fourteen sheep of the most diminutive size; so small, indeed, that three were insufficient to provide a portion of the size of a crown to each individual, and to make matters still worse, four of them died of dysentery.

The statement made by the captain as to many of the immigrants being improper people to have been put on board, will probably enough be rebutted in India; but we may observe, in reference to those allotted to the estates, that although in good spirits, they were on the whole much emaciated, and anything but favourable specimens of the Coolie race.

We note the remarks made by the surgeon as to the class of immigrants called Junglees, but being unacquainted with their habits or physical appearance when placed on board, we are unable to form any opinion as to their having contributed principally to the mortality during the voyage. The lanterns being unavailable on the second night in consequence of leakage, would leave no doubt but that they were inferior articles; and no attempt being made to replace them, would imply an amount of neglect on the part of all in authority that is highly culpable, and tended to confirm the people in their filthy and unwholesome habits. The appointment of a certain number of the immigrants as sick nurses would doubtless have ensured sufficient attendance on the sick, and we do not see why this should not have been done by the surgeon, as he had funds in hand from Mr. Caird for the payment of sirdars and cooks, with two topazes to aid in securing cleanliness.

We attribute the mortality on board the "Bucephalus" to the following causes:—

1st. The total absence of all hospital accommodation, which is the more particularly necessary in an instance of this kind, where dysentery prevailed epidemically, and was the chief cause of death. In the treatment of dysentery, beyond all medicine, is the ability to select and enforce a diet, without which little can be done. The means of complete isolation of the sick should have been placed at the surgeon's command, without which no class of patients like the Coolie could be effectually treated.

2d. The provisions used were, with one exception, good in quality. We allude to the "biscuits," which were unbaked and full of weevils, and evidently unfit for human food. Mr. Frost, of the "Blue Jacket," suggested that the allowance of dholl might be judiciously reduced from 4 to 2 oz., and that a "chura day" should be fixed occasionally. The total absence of all milk and sugar, and means of cooking what are termed "medical "comforts," must have also aided in making a fatal termination more certain.

3d. But beyond all was the excessive and mistaken kindness which induced the surgeon and captain to allow the people to remain below the greater part of the voyage. Considering the apparently unusually filthy class of immigrants, more than usual care should have been taken to prevent their remaining in the pestilential atmosphere between decks.

Our opinion is strengthened by the improvement manifested during the few days they were compelled to remain on deck, and it is much to be regretted that the surgeon and captain did not both insist on the practice being continued, however distasteful it may have been to the people themselves.

We beg to observe, in reference to a change recently made for the accommodation of the Coolies in the erection of platforms, that we do not see any necessity whatever for putting vessels to the expense, and thus enhancing the cost of immigration. On the contrary, we conceive that as the purer atmosphere is closer to the deck, the Coolies should, as heretofore, be allowed to spread their blankets upon it.

In conclusion, we feel bound to state, in behalf of the surgeon and captain, that the immigrants per "Bucephalus" emphatically denied all cause of complaint, and that many of them wept bitterly at leaving the ship. This latter, however, may have arisen as well from painful associations as gratitude.

We have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. Austin,
Immigration Agent-General.
H. G. Butts, M.D.,
Acting Health Officer.

The Hon. W. B. Wolseley.

Enclosure 4 in No. 55.

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, at its Extraordinary Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Friday, February 6, 1857.

[After Prayers.]

The Honourable Mr. Porter moves—

"That considering the great difficulties which are stated by the emigration agents, both "at Madras and Calcutta, to exist in the way of carrying on emigration from those ports "to the Mauritius and the West Indies at the same time, and which have just been so "signally exemplified in the case of the 'Blue Jacket,' this Court trusts that Her "Majesty's Government will re-establish the rule which formerly existed, and restrict "emigration from the Mauritius to six months of the year, allowing emigration to the "West Indies to go on for the remaining six months."

Seconded by the Honourable Mr. Clementson, and passed.

True Extract.
(Signed) W. B. Wolseley,
Acting Secretary.

No. 56.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 37.)

Government House, Georgetown,
March 24, 1857.
(Received April 18, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 262, May 25, 1857, p. 128.)

Sir,

I have had the honour of receiving your Despatch, No. 226,* of the 26th February last.

* Page 115.

It will be satisfactory, no doubt, to the planters of this Colony to learn that you do not think it necessary to subject them to a penalty of 5*l.* per head on every Coolie dying or landed unfit for work, in excess of 3 per cent. And I would even take the liberty of asking you to reconsider the case of the officers and surgeons of the ships. We now pay the former one dollar and the latter two dollars for every immigrant landed alive, and I confess that I cannot quite see the justice or the policy of imposing so heavy a penalty for each death as that proposed, without any reference to the conduct of the officers and surgeons, if it be wise to make any *per caput* allowance at all. We might promise an extra reward in cases of unusual success; but as no amount of human skill or care can positively avert death, I think it would be impolitic altogether to withdraw the inducement to good conduct, as soon as the mortality had reached some arbitrarily defined point. If it be true that the surgeon will take more care of the immigrants in the hope of getting two dollars for each of them, it follows that he will take less care of the survivors, when it is no longer possible for him to earn any extra remuneration.

If the feelings of humanity and professional credit are to be put altogether out of the question, if we are to look only to pecuniary advantages, is it not clear that under the rule proposed all inducement to extra exertion would be taken away, at the very time at which it would be most needed under the pressure of severe and general sickness. May not the cases of the "Sir R. Seppings" and the "Roman Emperor" (upon which I have reported by this mail) be quoted as supporting in the strongest manner this view of the case. They both sailed with the seeds of fatal disease on board—their passengers suffered heavily throughout the voyage—the officers made every exertion to preserve the lives and promote the comfort of those passengers, and yet, if the proposed rule had been in operation, they would have received nothing, while those of a more fortunate ship would have been handsomely rewarded, because, through the will of Providence, they had been called upon to do nothing. One of the most remarkable characteristics of the present day is the migration of different races, in different directions and under the influence of different causes. In the case of all there are found to be occasional disasters from sickness or from other causes; but no one therefore supposes that this migration is in itself an evil; no one doubts that the mass are benefited by it; nor, in most cases, does anyone wish to subject it to greater restrictions than are really required to prevent abuse. Indeed, this question of intertropical migration is, I think, fast ceasing to be pre-eminently a colonial one, and is assuming a British or an English character.

As regards sugar, the people of England are now suffering from what are termed "famine prices;" and that in spite of their having placed slave-grown sugar upon the same footing as the produce of their own colonial possessions. But as regards cotton, the question is much more serious, that is; if credit is to be given to the representations of those most intimately connected with the trade in that article. The poor of England may, at the sacrifice of one article, viz., sugar, contrive to earn their daily food; but I suppose no greater social calamity could well happen to the country, than that of the manufacturing classes employed in the production of cotton goods, being extensively and permanently thrown out of work from a deficiency of materials.

Now, Sir, I can assure you without fear, that in the production of both these articles this colony could, with the free introduction of immigrant labour, do great things. The sugar estates exist in cultivation, their proprietors are willing and anxious to make the best possible use of them, and would gladly increase their extent if the labour were procurable.

The cotton estates, upon which, before emancipation, fine crops were produced and large fortunes made, are now for miles abandoned, converted into useless swamps. Their restoration would be, with a full command of labour, the work of but a short time. Is there not therefore the strongest inducement for Her Majesty's Government to take advantage of the existence of such facilities for supplying the pressing and increasing wants of their own countrymen? I am no advocate for any rash, ill-digested scheme of immigration, to be carried on without regard to the loss of life; neither have I seen any such scheme advocated by those with whom I have been connected. They have expressed in the plainest terms their readiness to assent to any reasonable regulations which may be laid down by the Government for the protection of the immigrants; and it may therefore fairly be asked, what comparison any misfortunes which might unavoidably happen to a few immigrants would bear to the misery which must all upon the manufacturers of England if the supply of cotton materially fails?

In conclusion, I have to beg that you will pardon both the length of this communication and the freedom with which it has been written. I intended to have confined my remarks altogether to the question of the payment of the officers and surgeons; but situated as I am, it is not unnatural that I should have been led to enter more generally into a subject which is daily attracting a larger share of public attention.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 57.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 41.)

Government House, Georgetown,
April 8, 1857.

(Received May 2, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 258, May 15, 1857, p. 127.)

Sir,

I have now to bring to your notice that on the day of the opening of the annual session of the Combined Court, as soon as I concluded my address, Mr. O'Donoghue, who had that day taken his seat as one of the financial representatives of the county of Berbice, most unexpectedly, and as I believe without giving any previous intimation of his intention to more than one or two members, brought forward the two resolutions of which I enclose a copy. Enclosure.

He was very urgent in his attempts to induce the Court to proceed at once with the discussion of them, but was at last compelled to yield to my demand for a postponement to the next day. On the following morning, at the time fixed for the discussion, four of the unofficial members of the Court of Policy were absent; one only, Mr. Rose, was in his seat. He seconded the resolutions, and the six financial representatives, who were all present, voted for them, and carried them by seven votes against the four official members.

I enclose a printed report of the debate,* and shall beg of you to examine the observations which I addressed to the Court in opposition to the resolutions.

* Being very voluminous is not printed.

The principle upon which I have acted since I have been in the colony has been that of resisting as far as possible any addition to the public burthens for the purpose of promoting immigration for the direct benefit of the planters as individuals. The second of the resolutions which have now been carried is altogether at variance with that view. It entrusts to the elective section of the Combined Court, ten out of eleven of whom are planters, the power of raising money on the pledge of the colonial revenues, at any cost, to be lent to the planters at only a fixed cost, for which it cannot be borrowed. I shall not, therefore, introduce any ordinance or take any other step for giving legal effect to this resolution, unless I am instructed to do so by you.

I must confess that the move which has now been made by a section of the Court appears to be singularly ill-advised and ill-timed; and I am not without hope that before they reassemble on the 27th they will, on reflection, find cause to regret the step taken, and feel disposed to adopt a wiser course. But it cannot be denied that if my expectations should be disappointed, and a majority of the Court were to persevere in attempting to coerce me into a compliance with their wishes, my continued refusal might bring about a state of things very injurious to the colony, and which ought not to be risked except upon a clear sense of duty.

While therefore I have plainly stated to them my own opinion of the impropriety of their plan, I have only to express to you my readiness to yield the point at once, if you should consider me in error and direct me so to do.

In conclusion, allow me to express my hope that when dealing with the whole question of immigration in all its bearings, you will not allow the unwise resolution which has been passed by a section of the Combined Court to operate to the prejudice of the general interests of the colony. The fact is, that if Her Majesty's Government can arrive at a satisfactory arrangement for throwing open immigration to private enterprise, and providing an abundant supply of labour, whether from China, India, Africa, or any other quarter, we shall hear no more of these expedients for enabling needy men to obtain money. Matters will then be governed by the ordinary rules of commerce.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure in No. 57.

Encl. in No. 57. EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, combined with the Financial Representatives of the Inhabitants of the said Colony, at its Annual Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Saturday, 4th April 1857.

MR. O'DONOGHUE, financial representative, in pursuance of the notice given yesterday, moves the following resolutions:—

The Honourable Mr. Rose seconds, viz.:—

1st. That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to lay over all correspondence and other documents relating to the unsuccessful attempts made last year to raise the contemplated loan of 50,000*l.*

2nd. That a Committee of the elective section of this Court be now appointed, for the purpose of carrying out that object, and raising the said sum of 50,000*l.*, with full power to negotiate the same upon the most favourable terms they can obtain.

His Excellency the Governor states, with reference to the correspondence and other documents referred to in the first resolution, that they were furnished to the last Combined Court at its Extraordinary Assembly in November last.

The resolutions were then read and discussed at considerable length.

The votes being then taken, there appeared,—

For the resolutions.	Against.
Mr. O'Donoghue, F.R.	Acting Government Secretary.
Hon. Mr Rose.	Hon. John Daly.
Mr. M'Allaster, F.R.	Hon. Attorney General.
Mr. Whitney, F.R.	His Hon. the Chief Justice.
Mr. Jones, F.R.	
Mr. Borman, F.R.	
Mr. Buie, F.R.	

The resolutions were declared to be carried.

Mr. O'Donoghue moves that the following members of the Court be the committee for carrying into effect the object of the second of the aforesaid resolutions, namely, the Honourable Mr. Rose, Mr. Borman, F.R., and Mr. Whitney, to which, on the motion of the Honourable Mr. Rose, Mr. O'Donoghue, F.R., was added.

Committee agreed to.

His Hon. the Chief Justice and the Honourable the Attorney General declining to concur.

True Extract.
W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Secretary.

No. 58.

No. 58.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 45.)

Government House, Georgetown,
April 20, 1857.
(Received May 18, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 268, June 4, 1857, p. 132.)

SIR,

* Page 104. Enclosure. IN compliance with your Despatch, No. 173,* of the 11th November last, I beg to enclose an amended Bounty Proclamation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 58.

Enclosure in No. 58.

PROCLAMATION.

British Guiana.

L.S.

By His Excellency Philip Edmund Wodehouse, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c., &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

BY virtue of the power and authority vested in me, Philip Edmund Wodehouse, Esquire, Governor of the colony of British Guiana, by Ordinance No. 7 of the year 1854, intituled, "An Ordinance for the Amendment and Consolidation of the Laws for the Encouragement

of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," and in pursuance of a resolution of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the 23rd February 1857,

I do by this my proclamation name the ports or places from which immigrants may be introduced into this colony, in conformity with the said Ordinance No. 7 of 1854, and with the Ordinance No. 25 of 1856, and likewise the rates of bounties to be allowed for such introduction of immigrants, under and subject to the provisions of said Ordinances, to be as follows:—

Names of Ports or Places from which Immigrants may be introduced into the Colony.	Rates of Bounties, allowed for the Introduction of Immigrants.
	$
Madeira	35 00
Azores, or Western Islands	35 00
Canary Islands	35 00
Cape de Verde Islands	50 00
Curacoa	20 00
Margaritta and Spanish Main	20 00
United States of America and British North America	30 00

Given under my hand and seal of office, at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, this 24th day of February 1857 and in the twentieth year of Her Majesty's reign.

God save the Queen.

By His Excellency's command. (Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Government Secretary.

No. 59. No. 59.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 51.) Government House, Georgetown, May 2, 1857.

SIR, (Received June 2, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 227,* of the 3rd March last, in which you call my attention to certain points on which the Indian Government consider the Coolie emigration arrangements of this Colony to be defective. * Page 117.

With regard to the first point, viz., the embarrassment in which it is apprehended that the Coolie may involve himself, by entering into engagements for service after he has acquired a right to a back passage, you are perfectly right in supposing that the Coolie will secure himself against any such contingency. It is not the custom of this country for labourers of any description, Coolies or others, to enter into engagements for a longer term than one month, unless they are legally compelled to do so; and consequently, when a Coolie has completed his term of industrial service under indenture, he makes up his mind whether he will accept the bounty offered for a renewed term of industrial service, or whether he will claim his back passage, or remain in the Colony as a free man; and in neither of the last cases does he ever come under more than monthly contracts.

With regard to the transmission to India of the effects of Coolies dying, I am enabled to inform you that by the law of the Colony the proprietor of the house in which any person may die is bound to give notice to an officer termed the Administrator General. If the deceased should have left a will, the executors are bound to appear before that officer, and comply with the requirements of the law; and if he should have died intestate, it is the duty of the same officer to administer the estate. So far, therefore, I think the legal machinery established in the Colony is sufficient for the purpose; and it is only necessary for the Court of Directors to determine in what manner the assets shall be remitted to India.

I would also recommend that the Coolies should be permitted to remit to their friends in India any part of their earnings through the same channel.

I have, &c.

The Right. Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 60.

No. 60.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 57.)

Government House, Georgetown, May 21, 1857.

(Received June 15, 1857.)

SIR,

(Answered, No. 279, June 25, 1857, page 134.)

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 41,* of the 8th ultimo, I am happy to be able to inform you that the Combined Court have abandoned the plan of proceeding which at the commencement of the Session some of them appeared desirous to adopt.

* Page 229.

On the 13th instant Mr. O'Donoghue brought forward a resolution requesting the Governor and the Court of Policy to legislate for the purpose of giving effect to the resolution carried by him on the former occasion; but on my stating that I would not bring in any bill of such a nature, nor assent to one if carried, after its introduction by any unofficial member, the Combined Court contented themselves with requesting that certain private gentlemen might be added to the number of the Commissioners appointed to manage the Immigration Loan; and I have only to observe that the terms of the Ordinance are such as to render this proposal perfectly harmless.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

[No. 61.

No. 61.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 69.)

Government House, Georgetown, June 6, 1857.

(Received June 30, 1857.)

Immigration.—Under this head $35,000 have been voted for the introduction of Portuguese, upon the express understanding that they shall not, on arrival, be required to enter into indentures of service. This involves so complete a departure from the rules upon which our immigration has hitherto been conducted, as to demand full explanation. In the course of 1856 it was determined that the whole cost of the introduction of Portuguese immigrants should be borne by the planters to whom they might be allotted, and that in return the Portuguese should be indentured to them for three years. It has so happened, however, that whether from the operation of this rule, or from the ravages of cholera in Madeira, or from the increase of employment there, consequent on the recovery of the vines, no immigrants have since arrived from that island; and the planters, always watching uneasily any check of immigration, were at once disposed to attribute this to the reluctance of the Portuguese to bind themselves for three years. At the same time the planters were convinced that they could not themselves afford to pay, unless they had their services for three years; and ultimately a deputation of very influential gentlemen of different classes urged upon me that the Portuguese should be introduced at the public cost, free of all obligation to become bound to any one. Some allegations may be made favourable to this proposition which cannot be gainsayed. The Portuguese are so very industrious, that whether bound or not they are certain to work hard. So many of their countrymen are now settled in all parts of the colony, as to guarantee them against any risk of becoming destitute from the want of any legal location. The benefits which all classes, as well as the public revenue, derive from their commercial enterprise and skill, are extensive and beyond dispute. I could not deny that upon these grounds the expenditure of public money for their introduction might be defended; while certainly the entire abolition of indentures removed the most fatal objection under the previous system, viz., that of public funds being applied for the direct benefit of the planters receiving their labour. I admitted thus much to the deputation, but claimed full time for consideration as to the manner in which the funds should be provided. In the Combined Court, after

Mr. Jones, one of the Financial Representatives, had moved the resolution of which a copy is enclosed, he was induced to withdraw it and accept instead another moved by the Attorney-General. You will observe that the latter, while it sanctions the introduction of the Portuguese free from indentures, directs the cost to be paid for one year only, out of a special fund, and leaves untouched the question of future payments out of the general revenue. Several years ago an Ordinance was passed declaring that certain sums of money lying in the hands of the Administrator-General should in the absence of all claims become in ten years the property of the colony. The money was invested in the funds, every year claimants have been called up, by notices in the London and Colonial Gazettes, and many payments have from time to time been made to heirs and other parties. Now, however, a very large proportion has accrued absolutely to the colony, and in the course of a few months the whole, amounting to upwards of 17,000*l.*, will fall in. I had, therefore, no hesitation in recommending the application of $35,000 of it towards the encouragement of Portuguese immigration; and have now to request your instructions as to the payment in future years out of the general revenue, upon the distinct understanding that the immigrants shall not be indentured to any person.

In weighing this question it will be necessary to keep in view both the natural character of those whom it is proposed to introduce, as well as the political and social state of the existing population of the colony. Of all the different races who have hitherto been imported, the Portuguese alone could, in my opinion, be advantageously treated in the manner proposed, inasmuch as they alone possess habits of industry, coupled with other qualities calculated to render them peaceful and valuable citizens when set free from all artificial control. No one would expect continuous labour from either Africans or East Indians, if they found themselves on arrival free from all obligation to work; while in the case of the Chinese it would be an act of imprudence to abandon that right of control over their movements which might for some years be required for the preservation of the peace of the country.

For such immigrants as the Portuguese, therefore, who cannot be procured in any large numbers, the public revenue may fairly be required to pay, unless it be held that the negro, as a taxpayer, has a right to object to the expenditure of his money for the preservation of the European interests of the colony, and to insist upon reverting to absolute barbarism; unless this be his admitted and approved right, the taxes should be applied to the encouragement of immigration for the general good, inasmuch as by it alone can the colony be kept in existence.

Enclosure in No. 61. Encl. in No. 61.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, combined with the Financial Representatives of the Inhabitants of the said Colony, at its Annual Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Wednesday, 13th May 1857.

MR. JONES, F.R., in pursuance of notice given on the 27th ultimo, moves the following resolutions:—

Mr. Whitney seconds.

Resolved, that this Court recommends the Court of Policy to place in the estimate the sum of $35,000, for the payment of the passage money of Portuguese immigrants from Madeira and the Azores or Western Islands, to be introduced as early as possible.

That the Portuguese so introduced shall be free of indenture, and at liberty to choose their own employers.

At the suggestion of the Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. Jones, with the concurrence of his seconder, withdrew the resolution which he had just submitted to the Court; and on the motion of the Honourable the Attorney General, seconded by Mr. Whitney, F.R., the following was substituted,—

That this Court is of opinion that a portion of the unclaimed balances deposited by the respective Administrators General, and which have become the property of the colony, may with great propriety be applied to the encouragement of immigration, and therefore request the Governor and Court of Policy to place on the estimate an item of $35,000 for the introduction of Portuguese labourers from Madeira, the Azores, and Canary Islands,

BRITISH GUIANA.

upon the understanding that they shall not upon arrival be required to enter into any indenture, and that the matter be referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, with a request that $35,000 may be applied out of the unclaimed balances, as a provision for this charge.

Resolution agreed to.

True Extract.

W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Secretary.

No. 62.

No. 62.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, dated.

Government House, Georgetown,
(No. 75.) June 18, 1857.
(Received July 17, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 290, July 30, 1857, p. 134.)

Enclosure.

I BEG leave to submit for your most favourable consideration a series of resolutions passed by the Combined Court, praying for the re-establishment of immigration from China.

Enclosure in No. 62.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, combined with the Financial Representatives of the Inhabitants of the said Colony, at its Annual Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Friday, 15th May 1857.

MR. O'DONOGHUE, F.R., moves the following resolutions:—

Seconded by the Honourable Mr. Porter, and agreed to.

Resolved,—

Encl. in No. 62.

1st. That the great want of continuous labour in this colony is the only drawback to its advancement and prosperity, and to the development of its resources.

2nd. That repeated representations to this effect, hitherto with but little success, have been made to Her Majesty's Government, with a view to the removal of the restrictions imposed upon the introduction of labour from all parts of the world.

3. That in the year 1850 there were introduced into this colony a small number of Chinese immigrants, for the purpose of testing their adaptation and efficiency as agricultural labourers.

4. That this experiment has been attended with such singularly beneficial results, no less to the colony than to the immigrants themselves, as clearly to demonstrate that under proper regulations, and with a due proportion of females, there can be no more suitable class of labourers for this colony.

5. That the present moment would seem to be particularly suitable for making another strong appeal to H.M. Government for the entire removal of all restrictions against the introduction by private enterprise of immigrants from all parts of China and the adjacent islands.

6. That whilst this colony is called upon to sustain a competition for its staple exports upon equal terms with all other countries in the markets of the world, it is manifestly but an act of common fairness and justice that all unnecessary obstacles to the introduction of labourers for that purpose should be removed.

7. That his Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to forward these resolutions to H.M. Government, and strongly to urge upon it the expediency and justice of a reconsideration of this important question, with a view to the entire and immediate removal of all restrictions upon introducing immigrants by private enterprise from China.

True Extract.

W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Secretary.

No. 63.

No. 63.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

Government House, Georgetown,
July 2, 1857.
(Received August 3, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 307, August 27, 1857, page 136.)

(No. 78.)

SIR,

WITH reference to your Despatch, No. 219,* of the 14th February last, I beg leave to submit for Her Majesty's confirmation an Ordinance, No. 7 of 1857, "to regulate the industrial residence and the back passages of certain Indian immigrants, introduced by the ship 'Blue Jacket.'" By this ordinance the immigrants are placed upon the same footing as those introduced before the month of December 1853, who are entitled to back passages at the end of five years.

* Page 115.

Vide App. No. 9. Page 444.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 64.

No. 64.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

Government House, Georgetown,
July 2, 1857.
(Received August 3, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 318, Sept. 5, 1857, page 139.)

(No. 80.)

SIR,

WITH reference to the 6th paragraph of my Despatch, No. 69,† of the 6th June last, I beg leave to submit for Her Majesty's confirmation an Ordinance, No. 10 of 1857, "to appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars to the introduction, free of indentures, of immigrants from Madeira, the Azores, and the Canary Islands."

† Page 232.

Vide App. No. 10. Page 444.

I have only to observe that the 2nd Section will have the effect of placing these people, on their arrival, in the same position as the Creole population.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

No. 65.

No. 65.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor WODEHOUSE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

Government House, Georgetown,
July 15, 1857.
(Received August 18, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 316, Sept. 4, 1857, page 138).

(No. 94.)

SIR,

AT the request of Mr. O'Donoghue, a planter of Berbice, and one of the Financial Representatives, I beg to submit for your consideration copies of a correspondence in which that gentleman proposes that the planters of this colony should be allowed to send Coolies as delegates to India, to procure other Coolies for them, upon the understanding that the latter should on their arrival be allotted to the estates from which the delegates had been sent.

If such a plan could be sanctioned, it might perhaps be carried out in the following manner:—

The delegate should be sent at the expense of his employer to India, with orders to present himself on his arrival to the Emigration Agent, with a view to obtaining a distinct recognition by him. All the Coolies whom he might induce to emigrate should be delivered over at the depôt to the Emigration Agent, whose duty it would be to ascertain that they thoroughly understood into what sort of an engagement they were about to enter, and had not been

BRITISH GUIANA.

in any way imposed upon. The Emigration Agent having satisfied himself upon these points, would grant a certificate of the Coolies in question having been procured through the instrumentality of that particular delegate, and the Governor would on their arrival, and in the absence of any local objection, assign them to the employer of that delegate.

I took an opportunity of laying Mr. O'Donoghue's letters before the Court of Policy, and ascertained that most of the members would view with pleasure the success of his application, principally because a general impression exists that by such means the planters would obtain both a larger number and a much more efficient class of immigrants than they now get through the Emigration Department alone.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

Encl. in No. 65.

Enclosure in No. 65.

Government Secretary's Office,
June 17, 1857.

SIR,

HAVING laid before the Governor your letter of the 15th instant, I am directed to state that his Excellency would be glad if you would put him in possession of any really authentic information which you may have, in respect to the course pursued by the Government of the Mauritius in the matter to which you refer.

I have, &c.

Wm. O'Donoghue, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Government Secretary.

Sub.-Encl. 1 in No. 65.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

Berbice, June 15, 1857.

SIR,

I BEG to ask whether his Excellency the Governor would approve of private individuals sending Coolie delegates to India, and if so, whether he would allot all immigrants that such delegate might obtain to the particular estate for which he might have engaged them in India, the proprietor of course paying all the expenses.

That this is the system by which alone good and effective labourers are to be procured will be freely admitted, and it is the secret of the success of Coolie immigration to the Mauritius, and as a necessary consequence of the shipment of the refuse of the cargoes to this colony, which has recently occurred.

Should his Excellency not be prepared to give a decided and immediate reply to this inquiry, may I ask him to give it his early consideration, as it is a question of infinite importance, and one upon which it is probable that immediate action would be taken if sanctioned by the Government; and I can see no possible objection to the adoption of a system here which is working so well, and under the sanction of the Government, at the Mauritius.

I have, &c.

The Hon. W. B. Wolseley, &c. &c.

(Signed) W. O'DONOGHUE.

Sub.-Encl. 2 in No. 65.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

Berbice, June 22, 1857.

SIR,

THE best authenticated information which I can give to the Governor respecting the system pursued in the Mauritius, for the importation of labourers from India, is derived from the Coolies themselves.

I cannot at this moment call to my recollection the source from which I originally derived the information as to its being mainly carried on through the instrumentality of delegates, who are sent to engage them for particular estates on which they themselves reside; but I think inquiry would prove such to be the fact.

A very intelligent Coolie, who has lived with me for many years, informs me that he himself had been in the Mauritius three years, and that he had *seen* these delegates despatched on many occasions, both from the estate on which he lived and others adjoining; and that all immigrants who had been induced to accompany him were invariably located on the same estate, to the number of 100 at a time, in some instances.

That in fact this was the principal inducement to them to emigrate.

This man informs me that if I was to send him to India to engage Coolies for this particular estate, and that all whom he might be the means of bringing were sure of being permitted to accompany him, he would have no difficulty in procuring 50 to 100 *efficient* labourers, very different, as he describes it, from the miserable people who were located here ex "Robert Seppings," or indeed any others that he has seen.

What I want to know is this,—if I incur the whole expense of the undertaking, and that this man should succeed in obtaining a number of Coolies for me, to be shipped of course under Government supervision, as at present, will his Excellency engage not to separate the lot upon arrival here, but to locate them all together with this man upon the estate for which he engages them in India?

I know that Mr. Winter and other gentlemen would avail themselves of such a system, the superiority of which over the present can scarcely be doubted.

Should his Excellency not feel prepared to give a positive reply, may I respectfully ask him to submit it to the Secretary of State?

I have, &c.

The Hon. W. B. Wolseley, &c. &c.

(Signed) W. O'Donoghue.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.

Despatches from the Duke of Newcastle.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY.

(No. 63.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 7, 1854.

No. 175. 16 January, 1854. Vide page 1.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, an extract from a Despatch addressed by me to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Guiana, from which you will be able to learn the modifications which, after due consultation with the Court of East India Directors, so far as regards Coolies, Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to sanction in the laws now in force in some of the West India colonies for regulating the immigration of labourers.

Vide page 13.

I also enclose a draft in which I have caused these modifications to be embodied in the form and language of legal enactments, in order that they may be more immediately available for use, in case the Legislature should think fit to adopt them.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY.

(No. 69.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 17, 1854.

Vide page 20. 25th Feb. 1854. Vide page 25. 17th March 1854.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, transmitting copies of a correspondence with Mr. White, on the subject of Chinese emigration to the West Indies, together with a copy of the answer returned to the Commissioners by my desire.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY.

(No. 82.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 9, 1854.

12th April 1854. Vide page 29.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, forwarding copies of two letters from Mr. White, reporting that he has been unable to charter any vessels for the conveyance of Chinese emigrants to the West Indies, and that he proposes to return to England, leaving China last month.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

JAMAICA.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from His Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY.

(No. 88.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 16, 1854.

IN reply to so much of your Despatch of the 20th March last, No. 36, as has reference to the future emigration of labourers from Madeira to Jamaica, I transmit to you a copy of instructions which, with my sanction, the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners have addressed to Mr. Taylor, the agent at Madeira, from which you will find that the views of the Commissioners of Emigration Correspondence have been adopted. 8th May 1854. Enclosure.

You have my authority for carrying on the emigration by direct correspondence with Mr. Taylor.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Enclosure in No. 4. Encl. in No. 4.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
SIR, Park Street, Westminster, May 8, 1854.

I AM directed by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to inform you that they have received instructions from the Duke of Newcastle to authorize you to send to Jamaica, by such vessels as you can from time to time procure, emigrants of a suitable age, at a bounty not exceeding 7*l.* sterling per adult, all outlay for passports, clothing, and other expenses whatsoever included.

As you are in communication with the Board of Immigration Correspondence on the mode of carrying on this immigration, the Commissioners need say nothing respecting the requirements of the colonists, except that they understand it to be desired that the emigration should be conducted, as nearly as circumstances admit, on the same terms as that to British Guiana. You will of course take care that no persons are induced to emigrate without a clear understanding of what they have to expect in Jamaica, and that they are shipped with a proper regard to their health and safety, and in no greater number (in proportion to the size of the ship) than is allowed by the British Guiana regulations, viz., one adult per ton register.

I have, &c.

James Taylor, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) S. WALCOTT.

No. 5. No. 5.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY.

(No. 89.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 20, 1854.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, recommending that the surgeons and interpreters of Coolie emigrant ships should be paid by the Government instead of by the shipowners. Vide page 31. 3rd May 1854.

I have informed the Commissioners that I approve of the course which they propose to adopt.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 6. No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from His Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor Sir H. BARKLY.

(No. 93.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 12, 1854.

IN your Despatch of the 20th March last, No. 36, you stated that the Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence, a copy of the minutes of whose proceedings you enclosed, were not prepared to authorize any expenditure

JAMAICA.

Extract.
12th May 1854.

Enclosure.

for Chinese immigration which would bring the total expense per head beyond $100.

I transmit to you an extract from a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, from which you will find that they are of opinion that it is hopeless to endeavour to procure emigrants on these terms, and they are consequently precluded from taking any further steps for sending Chinese to Jamaica.

With reference to Mr. White's suggestion that the Chinese headmen should have power to inflict on their fellow labourers "such a moderate degree of "punishment as will not incapacitate the labourer from his daily task," and to his remarks on the expediency of encouraging the settlement of disputes and claims among the Chinese, I have to observe that there would be nothing contrary to the principles of British jurisprudence in trying causes between Chinaman and Chinaman by a jury of Chinese. But I think that further than this the Government should not go in establishing separate laws and judicatures for Chinese immigrants; or if they were to go further, it should only be when driven by a necessity practically proved.

At the same time, if the Chinese have such a predilection for their own customs as to submit themselves of their own free will, and with a full knowledge of the exemption which the law would afford them, to the punishments of a headman of their own race, and make no appeal to the law, the Government would of course have nothing to do with the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Governor Sir H. Barkly,
&c. &c.

Encl. in No. 6.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Extract of letter from the Emigration Commissioners, dated May 12, 1854.

In his Despatch of the 20th of March, transmitted to us in your letter of the 29th ultimo, Sir H. Barkly stated that the Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence did not consider it right to authorize any rate of expenditure for Chinese immigration which would bring the total expense per head beyond the sum of one hundred dollars (20*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*) originally fixed; and by the enclosures to that Despatch we observe that the Commissioners, after considering an estimate of the expense, in which conveyance was set down at 17*l.* or 18*l.* a head, decided that it would not be worth while to continue the emigration at that cost.

We felt no doubt on receiving this information that it would be quite impossible to carry on the emigration on the prescribed terms; but not wishing to act on our own unsupported judgment on such a subject, we have endeavoured to obtain the opinion of the principal brokers with whom we are in the habit of dealing.

Of these, one informs us, "after conversations with one or two practised shipowners," that the rate asked for conveyance alone would be about 19*l.* per adult; two others place it at about 20*l.*; a fourth calculates the actual expenses of the shipowner at 17*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, without allowing for various circumstances calculated to enhance the expense; a fifth states that we could not obtain shipping "at anything like the rate we name" (16*l.* or 17*l.*) And we may add, that the master of a ship (the "Epsom") taken up by us last year at 16*l.* 7*s.* per adult, and now, we hope, on her way to Jamaica, was disposed (as we are informed by Mr. White) to throw up his engagement, and pay a penalty amounting to upwards of 750*l.* (about 3*l.* per adult on the complement of emigrants), rather than carry the emigrants on terms so disproportionate to the present rate of freights. As it would not be safe to calculate the cost of agency, collection, clothing, depôt, cooks, interpreters, and other incidental expenses under 4*l.* a head, it is plain that to obtain emigrants on the terms approved by the Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence would be hopeless.

22nd Feb. 1854.

Vide page 35.

We take this opportunity of enclosing copies of two communications which we have received from Mr. White. We would suggest that copies of his remarks on emigration, which embody many very valuable suggestions, should be forwarded to the Governors of Jamaica and British Guiana and Trinidad.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

No. 7.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Duke of Newcastle to Governor Sir H. Barkly.

No. 7.

(No. 95.)

Sir, Downing Street, June 12, 1854.

I enclose for your information copies and extracts of a correspondence between this office, the Foreign Office, and the Commissioners for Emigration, arising out of a proposal made by Mr. White, the emigration agent in China, to procure female emigrants from that country by making advances of money to male emigrants for the purchase of women in marriage, according to the customs of China. Vide pages 45, 46, and 47.

You will perceive that the inclination of my own judgment has been to authorize the offer of a bounty to married emigrants equal to the price ordinarily paid in China by a man of the labouring class for his wife, the result to be expected being, that emigrants will procure wives on the credit of the bounty.

You will further perceive, that the Earl of Clarendon regards the proposal with great alarm, as involving the instrumentality of the British Government in promoting the sale of Chinawomen for expatriation without their consent, and that the Emigration Commissioners defend it on this ground, amongst others, that in China female children are habitually either destroyed or sold as slaves to procuresses, to be brought up as prostitutes, and that it were better they should be sold in marriage to be taken to a free country.

When an agent shall be again sent to China, he will be instructed to report, on the one hand, whether the offer of a bounty to men who have been enabled to marry from their own resources will be available to procure the emigration of married couples, or, on the other, whether the offer of a bounty in advance to male emigrants, to enable them to marry, can be so guarded as to ascertain that marriages shall not take place in virtue of the advance without the consent of the woman to the marriage and to the emigration.

I send you this correspondence, in order that you may be aware of the very serious questions which are arising out of the disproportion of the sexes in the emigrations from Asia hitherto effected or set on foot.

It is necessary to apprize you, that unless the difficulties of redressing this disproportion can be in one way or another overcome, the emigration cannot be permitted to proceed. Her Majesty's Government cannot incur the reproach of forming over again in the West Indies and Mauritius such male communities as were formed in the earlier part of this century in Australia.

So long as the emigrants went to the West Indies to labour for a term of five years and no more, with a purpose, to be duly executed, of returning to their country and families at the end of that term, the evil of being unaccompanied by their wives, great as it was, might not be regarded as intolerable. But first the practice was adopted of inducing the Coolies to commute their back passages, and engage themselves to remain for a second period of five years, and next the Court of Directors sanctioned an original contract for a ten years' residence, and the result must be expected to be that the greater number of the East Indian immigrants will never return; whilst the Chinese, who make no stipulation to have a back passage provided for them, will also in all probability settle in the colonies to which they are brought.

These facts and prospects give an importance to the disproportion of sexes which it is impossible any longer to overlook, and unless that disproportion can be rectified it will be indispensable that the emigration should be brought to a speedy termination, deeply as that necessity would be to be lamented.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 8.

No. 8.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir George Grey to Governor Sir Henry Barkly.

(No. 1.)

Sir, Downing Street, June 19, 1854.

I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with copy of one from Mr. Taylor, Vide page 48.

JAMAICA.

the emigration agent at Madeira, reporting that the Portuguese Government had restricted the number of emigrants who would be allowed to be shipped to two for every five tons, ship's register, computing as adults all above six years, and including ship's crew. All vessels carrying upwards of thirty adults to carry a surgeon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly,
&c. &c.

No. 9.

No. 9.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir George Grey to Governor Sir Henry Barkly.

(No. 6.)

Sir, Downing Street, June 26, 1854.

Vide page 49.

I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with copy of one from Mr. Caird, explaining why he has not been able to send the full complement of Coolies to the West Indies during the last season.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly,
&c. &c.

No. 10.

No. 10.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir George Grey to Governor Sir Henry Barkly.

(No. 33.)

Sir, Downing Street, September 11, 1854.

* Page 253.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of July 10, No. 86,* relative to the possibility of obtaining some of the Chinese immigrants from the Isthmus of Panama, where a large number are employed on the railroad, and your request that my sanction may be given to your proclaiming a bounty of 6*l.* or 7*l.* a head on every such immigrant on his introduction into Jamaica.

I should have no hesitation in giving you my authority to propose such a bounty if the proposed immigration were not, equally with other Chinese immigration, liable to the objection of being an immigration of men without women. But being so I can only refer you to the Duke of Newcastle's Despatch, No. 95, of 12th June last.†

† Page 243.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly,
&c. &c.

No. 11.

No. 11.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Sir Henry Barkly.

(No. 37.)

Sir, Downing Street, October 10, 1854.

‡ Page 254.

‡ I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of August 22, No. 94, reporting that you had authorized the payment of 6*l.* a head on the introduction of 800 of the Chinese labourers now employed on the Panama Railway.

In my Despatch of the 11th ultimo, No. 33, I pointed out the objection I felt to sanctioning the immigration of these people without a due proportion of women; but considering the limited extent to which you have proposed to carry it into effect, I have to convey to you my authority for the payment of this bounty to that extent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly,
&c. &c.

No. 12.

No. 12.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor Sir H. BARKLY.

(No. 49.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 8, 1854.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information copy of a Despatch from the Lieut.-Governor of Hong Kong relating to the emigration of Chinese from that colony. No. 23. 5th June 1854. Vide page 57.

With respect to Mr. Caird's suggestion that a local ordinance should be passed in Hong kong for regulating this emigration, I have to observe that no such law could dispense with the imperative provisions of the Imperial Passengers Act.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c. (Signed) G. GREY.

No. 13.

No. 13.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY.

(No. 51.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 15, 1854.

WITH reference to my predecessor's Despatch, No. 63,* of the 7th March 1854, in which you were informed that the question of contribution of 35 dollars by Coolie emigrants proceeding to the West Indies, towards the payment of the expense of their return passage to India, had been submitted to the Government of India, I have to acquaint you, for your information and guidance, that the Indian Government has assented to the proposal. * Page 240.

Mr. Caird, the agent in India, has been instructed to carry this into effect in the case of all Coolies who may proceed to the West Indies after due notice shall have been given of their new condition, and has further been instructed to take measures for insuring full communication of it to all intending emigrants.

All future emigrants will also be apprized that they will not be entitled to any public aid towards the expense of their back passage, unless claimed within eighteen months of the time of their becoming due.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c. (Signed) G. GREY.

No. 14.

No. 14.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor Sir H. BARKLY.

(No. 54.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 16, 1854.

I HAVE received your Despatch No. 104,† of the 10th ultimo, reporting that before the receipt of my Despatch No. 33, of the 11th September, you had taken measures for bringing away from the Isthmus of Panama the surviving Chinese emigrants who had been working on the Panama railway. And I have to acquaint you in answer that I fully approve of your attempt to rescue these immigrants from the miseries to which they were exposed, and of the proceedings which you adopted with that view. † Page 255.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c. (Signed) G. GREY.

JAMAICA.

No. 15.

No. 15.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor Sir H. BARKLY.

SIR, Downing Street, June 23, 1855.

No. 20. 25th May 1855. Vide page 66.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a Despatch I have addressed to the Governor of Mauritius in reference to the proportion of female immigrants to be required in future emigration from India to that colony.

You will understand that the views expressed in that Despatch on this subject are to be considered as equally applicable to the West Indies, where indeed it is still more important to redress the disproportion, inasmuch as the immigrants brought from a greater distance and for a longer term of service must be regarded as constituting a more permanent population.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c. (Signed) J. RUSSELL.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor Sir H. BARKLY.

SIR, Downing Street, March 19, 1856.

I HAVE to acquaint you that the question of the progressive proportion of female to male Indian immigrants to the West Indies has been under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I now proceed to make known to you the decision which has been arrived at on this question, as regards the seasons 1856–7, 1857–8, and 1858–9.

1. The number of males to be introduced in 1856–7 must not under any circumstances exceed the proportion of one female to three male immigrants.

2. The number of males in 1857–8 must not exceed three times the number of females introduced in 1856–7.

3. For the season 1858–9 the number of males shall not exceed twice the number of females introduced in the previous season.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor Sir H. BARKLY.

(No. 34.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 15, 1856.

THE Emigration Agent at Calcutta having reported that the Coolies had refused to proceed to the West India colonies, subject to the condition that they should contribute a sum of £35 towards their return passage to India, at the expiration of their ten years' residence in the West Indies, I have had this matter under my consideration, with a view to the substitution of other conditions.

And I have now to acquaint you that I am of opinion, that whilst leaving the Coolies' first five years of industrial residence as prescribed by the existing law, the best course will be to enact that, as regards the sixth and subsequent years of the ten of residence, it shall be incumbent upon him, as a condition of his claim to a return passage, that he shall enter into contract, each contract to be of not less than one year's duration, or that he shall pay 2*l.* 10*s.* for every one of those years during which he has not been under contract.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

JAMAICA.
No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 82.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 5, 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a letter from the Emigration Commissioners, in which they recommend, in compliance with the wish of certain merchants and planters, that Mr. Caird and the agent at Madras should receive, in addition to their present salaries, a fee of two rupees per adult on all the emigrants despatched by them to the West Indies in any season above the amount of 2,000; and that in the case of the Madras agent, that payment shall be in addition to his present fee of a rupee per adult on emigrants shipped by him.

13th May 1856.
Vide page 90.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

I have, &c.
H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 19.

No. 19.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY.

(No. 57.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 30, 1856.

IT having been represented to me that the rule laid down by my Circular Despatch of the 19th March, as regards the proportion of female to male immigrants to be introduced into the West Indies, might limit in a manner not intended the total number of immigrants allowed for each year, I have to acquaint you that I do not propose to maintain the proportion between the males of one year and the females of the year preceding, but that for the future the proportion to be enforced should be between the females and the males of each successive year as follows:—

For the seasons of 1856–7 and 1857–8, not less than one female to three male immigrants.

For the season 1858–9 not less than one female to two males, leaving the proportion for subsequent seasons to be determined by future instructions.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir Henry Barkly, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Lieut.-Governor BELL.

(Circular.)

SIR, Downing Street, August 6, 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a Despatch which has been addressed to the Earl of Clarendon by Her Majesty's Consul at the Cape de Verde islands, stating that 328 emigrants have left those islands for Demerara, and that others will probably follow.

26th June 1856.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Bell, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 20.

Encl. in No. 20.

MY LORD, St. Vincent, Cape Verds, June 26, 1856.

ONE of the results of the famine in these islands will be emigration, and as this, to a certain degree, will affect British interests, I conceive it my duty to offer on this occasion the following remarks:—

The principal authorities of these islands, however much they seemed hitherto disinclined to favour emigration from them, are, at the present time, too happy to avail themselves of such a ready means of disposing of a starving population which they have not the means of feeding.

JAMAICA.

Two English vessels have already conveyed to Demerara 328 emigrants, and it is probable that, if good accounts are returned from these hereafter, a moderate, and perhaps constant, supply of labour will be found in these islands for that colony.

The inhabitants of these islands are a race of people of a class somewhat similar to the Negroes of the coast of Africa, but much more intelligent, more laborious, and docile. Their inclination to agricultural pursuits, and industrious habits, will doubtless render them, as free labourers, a most valuable acquisition upon the estates in British Guiana and West Indian colonies.

My predecessor was instructed unofficially to assist in promoting emigration to the West Indies, but, until the present time, the attempts which have been made to induce the inhabitants of these islands to emigrate were all unsuccessful. It is to be hoped that the present calamity may be attended with, at the least, this mitigation of its great evils—the pointing out to them a retreat from the frequent famines which periodically desolate these islands, where, at the same time, they would be enabled to better their condition, and be fairly recompensed for their labour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MILLER,
H. B. M. Consul.

The Earl of Clarendon,
&c. &c.

No. 21.

No. 21.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Lieutenant-Governor BELL.

(No. 101.)

SIR, Downing Street, January 9, 1857.

WITH reference to your Despatch No. 33,* of the 10th September last, I transmit to you the copy of a correspondence between the Emigration Commissioners, this Department, and the Foreign Office, which will put you in possession of the steps which have been taken for the appointment of Mr. Miller, the British Consul at the Cape de Verde islands, as emigration agent for Jamaica.

* Page 262.

You will observe that the Commissioners state in their report of the 31st October that the funds in their hands will be sufficient to defray the expense of the emigration of the 500 persons asked for in your Despatch in the first instance, but that if the emigration be continued, funds must be provided to meet it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Lieut.-Governor Bell.
&c. &c.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor WODEHOUSE.

(Circular.)

SIR, Downing Street, January 31, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Foreign Department, with copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at St. Vincent, stating that there would be no possibility of any emigration from the Cape de Verde islands at present.

Enclosure.
29th Jan. 1857.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Wodehouse,
&c. &c.

Encl. in No. 22.

Enclosure in No. 22.

SIR, Foreign Office, January 29, 1857.

WITH reference to your letter of the 19th December last, I am directed by the Earl of Clarendon to transmit to you, to be laid before the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at St. Vincent, stating that there is no probability of any emigration from the Cape Verde Islands at present, owing to the great ravages occasioned by the cholera.

Sub-Enclosure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SHELBURN.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 22.

JAMAICA.

Sub-Encl. in No. 22.

(No. 61.)

British Consulate, St. Vincent, Cape Verds, December 1, 1856.

My Lord,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the Despatch No. 11, dated Foreign Office, 10th October, transmitting to me a copy of a Despatch which the Governor of Jamaica addressed to the Colonial Department, inclosing a copy of a resolution of the Commissioners of Immigration in that island, relating to procuring emigrants from these islands.

The following is an extract from a letter which I addressed to His Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, in answer to a Despatch upon this subject which I received from the Government Secretary's Office at Demerara, explaining how it is that at the present moment there is little probability of obtaining emigrants from these islands:—

"I regret to inform your Excellency that the emigration which had commenced from "these islands to Demerara has received a complete check in consequence of the cholera, "which has carried off such a vast number of the population that it is supposed there will "not be sufficient labour left for the natural requirements of the islands.

"The islands at present are put in quarantine almost every one with each other, so that "just now it is impossible to arrive at a very correct conclusion as to the probability of "the recommencement of emigration; but from my experience of these people I should "say that they will not now be easily induced to leave their country, since the absolute "necessity for abandoning it has ceased.

"They were forced to accept the resource of emigration lately offered to them to escape "death by famine, for there had been nearly four years of drought in the Windward "Islands; but now things are changed; in two of the most populous of them there will be "this year most abundant harvests, and in one of these islands, viz., St. Nicholas, two-"thirds of the population are said to have been carried off by the cholera."

If during the coming year I find that there is again an inclination upon the part of the inhabitants of any of these islands to emigrate, I will, immediately upon the knowledge of it, apprise your Lordship of the fact.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Clarendon, &c. &c.

(Signed) Thomas Miller, H. B. M. Consul.

No. 23.

No. 23.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Lieutenant-Governor Bell.

(No. 111.)

Sir,

Downing Street, February 14, 1857.

With reference to my Circular Despatch of the 31st of January,* in which I informed you that there was no probability of any emigration from the Cape de Verde islands at present, I forward an extract from a report of the Emigration Commissioners respecting the appropriation of the sum of 5,000*l.* which remains in their hands for the purposes of that emigration.

* Page 248. (Extract.) 6th Feb. 1857. Enclosure.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Bell, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 23.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Extract of Report from the Emigration Commissioners, dated 6th February 1857.

"If the Government of Jamaica determine upon appropriating the 5,000*l.* in our hands "to some object other than emigration from these islands, Mr. Miller should be so "informed, in order to prevent the possibility of his considering himself at liberty on any "future occasion to set on foot emigration to Jamaica."

No. 24.

No. 24.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Lieutenant-Governor Bell.

(No. 116.)

Sir,

Downing Street, March 17, 1857.

I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with copy of a letter from Her Majesty's 14th March 1857.

JAMAICA.

Consul at the Cape de Verde islands, in which he states that he hopes to be able to forward 500 emigrants to Jamaica in the course of the year.

I request you will inform me, with as little delay as possible, whether you propose drawing from any portion of the 5,000*l.* in the hands of the Commissioners applicable to immigration services.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Bell, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 24.

Enclosure in No. 24.

SIR, Emigration Office, March 14, 1857.

WITH reference to our letter of the 6th ultimo, in which we recommended that the Governors of Jamaica and Trinidad should be informed that the Consul at the Cape de Verde islands saw no prospect of any further emigration from thence, we have the honour to enclose for transmission to the Governor of Jamaica the copy of a letter which has subsequently reached us from that gentleman, in which he states that he hopes in the course of the year to be able to send out 500 emigrants to Jamaica, and has taken preliminary steps with that object.

21st February. Sub-Enclosure.

2. It will therefore be necessary, unless some further portion of the guaranteed loan is raised, that the 5,000*l.* which is now in our hands should remain untouched.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH. FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sub-Encl. to No. 24.

Sub-Enclosure to No. 24.

British Consulate, St. Vincent, Cape de Verds, February 21, 1857.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to state that I have received, through the Foreign Office, a letter of instructions, dated Emigration Office, 6th December 1856, relative to obtaining in these islands 500 emigrants as agricultural labourers for the island of Jamaica, and that I am commanded by the Earl of Clarendon to guide myself in this matter in accordance to the terms of that letter.

As I have every reason to believe that I shall be enabled, during the present year, to obtain the above-mentioned number of emigrants, I have considered that no time should be lost in taking the preliminary steps towards the necessary arrangements for carrying out the object in view. I have therefore communicated with the commercial firm of Messrs. Visger and Miller, in Bristol, my relatives, requesting their assistance in furthering them, and they will doubtless seek an interview with the Emigration Commissioners, for the purpose of obtaining the information they may require to enable them to carry through their arrangements satisfactorily.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS MILLER, H. B. M. Consul.

The Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, Emigration Office, London.

No. 25.

No. 25.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Lieutenant Governor Bell.

(No. 130.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 12, 1857.

WITH reference to the Act forwarded in your Despatch No. 10 of the 26th January, entitled "An Act to provide for an extended industrial Service "of East Indian Immigrants, for allotting Lands to all Immigrants who shall "fulfil their Contracts, and to make better Provision for the return Passage "of East Indian Immigrants," I transmit to you the copy of a letter from the India Board and of its enclosure, from which you will see that objections are entertained to the proposal of allowing Coolies to commute their right to return passages.

30th April 1857. Vide page 127.

Enclosure 1. 4th April 1857.

I also enclose a copy of the letter from this Department of the 4th of April, which is alluded to in the letter from the India Board.

Her Majesty's decision on the Act will be suspended until the Indian Government come to a final decision on the proposal.

I further annex for your information a copy of a report of the Emigration Commissioners on the Act in question.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Bell, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 25.

Encl. in No. 25.

SIR, Downing Street, April 4, 1857.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to transmit to you for the information of the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, the enclosed extract of a despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, and copy of the resolution therein referred to, urging the wish of the colonists and of the Colonial Government that Coolies may be at liberty to commute their right to back passages upon reasonable terms. I am also desired to enclose an extract containing the report of the Emigration Commissioners upon this application.

I am desired to state that after fully weighing all the considerations bearing on the subject, Mr. Labouchere is prepared, if the Court of Directors should concur, to agree to the course proposed by the Governor and authorities of British Guiana.

Sir G. Clerk.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. MERIVALE.

(Sub-Enclosure.)

Sub-Enclosure.

Extract of Report from the Emigration Commissioners to H. Merivale, Esq., dated February 14, 1857.

The Governor is to request that Coolies may be permitted to commute their right to back passages upon such terms as may be considered reasonable. (Art. 8.)

We have never perfectly understood why the full permission to adopt this course was refused to British Guiana. In all the West Indian Colonies the Coolies have been allowed at the expiration of one period of industrial residence to engage for a second period of similar length. The arrangement is convenient, both to the Coolie who remains in a country where he can earn one or two shillings instead of two or three pence a day; and to the colony which obtains the service of a trained labourer for 50 dollars instead of sending him to India and obtaining another (untrained) in his stead at the aggregate cost of more than 100 dollars. And if it is expedient to facilitate the Indian's stay in the colony for periods amounting together to 20 years, we do not see why he may not be allowed voluntarily to relinquish his right to a return passage altogether. We should ourselves, therefore, see no objection to a law which should authorize the Governor to give a sum of 50 dollars to any Coolie who was willing, instead of returning to his country, to commence a fresh industrial residence, or to give some other reasonable sum (which should, we think, be specified in the Ordinance) to those who were ready without any stipulation as to industrial residence, simply to relinquish their right to back passages altogether.

Enclosure 2 in No. 25.

Encl. 2 in No. 25.

SIR, Emigration Office, April 2, 1857.

WE have the honour to state that we have perused an Act passed by the Legislature of Jamaica in the month of December last, No. 4,171, "An Act to provide for "an extended industrial Service of East Indian Immigrants, for allotting Lands to all "Immigrants who shall fulfil their Contracts, and to make better Provision for the return "Passage of East Indian Immigrants," and referred to us in your letter of 27th February.

2. This Act provides that Coolie immigrants hereafter introduced into the colony shall be entitled to receive a return passage on completing five years of industrial and ten years of actual residence. It authorizes the Board of Immigration Correspondence to buy land in order to grant it to immigrants, and the Governor to appropriate to that purpose 5,000*l.* out of the Guaranteed Loan.

3. This land may either be assigned for certain periods to immigrants during their industrial service, or may be granted to them in commutation of their return passages.

4. In the latter case it is to be granted to persons who have performed their industrial service in the proportion of one acre for every year's service, and it is provided that "every immigrant who shall accept a grant of land under this Act shall be thereby "deemed to have waived and surrendered all claim to a return passage." It is also provided that the land is to be forfeited unless cultivated in part within 12 months.

JAMAICA.

5. The lands assigned or granted are freed from various imposts, and a grant of land is to carry with it naturalization, subject to the necessity of taking the oath of allegiance.

6. On this Act we have to observe, first, that the 5,000*l.* of the Guaranteed Loan now remaining in our hands is pledged to meet the expenses of the Cape de Verde emigration. It will not be possible, therefore, for the Governor to appropriate money as proposed by the third clause of the Act, unless the Lords of the Treasury should raise part of what remains to be raised of that loan on behalf of Jamaica. We would suggest that this information should be communicated to the Governor.

7. If the Secretary of State considers that the absolute commutation of a return passage is objectionable, the sixth clause will require to be amended; and even if this clause is considered admissible in principle, it appears to us that the rate of commutation is exceedingly low (being five acres of wild land at the utmost), while the cost of a return passage would probably be about 12*l.*, and the rate of commutation in British Guiana and Trinidad is 50 dollars.

8. Further, it might easily happen, under the present law, that an immigrant might accept a grant of land under the fifth clause without being fully informed of the loss of his return passage, which he would incur, *ipso facto*, under the sixth.

9. It appears to us that the Act should be so amended as to make the rate of commutation offered in Jamaica equivalent to that offered in other colonies, and to secure that the abandonment by the Coolie of his right to a return passage, instead of resulting *ipso facto* from his acceptance of a Crown grant, should never be effected except by a distinct contract recorded in writing, the nature of which it would be impossible for him to misapprehend. Till these alterations are made, we cannot recommend that this Act should receive Her Majesty's sanction.

We have, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

No. 26.

No. 26.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Lieut.-Governor Bell.

(No. 136.)

Sir, Downing Street, June 12, 1857.

* Page 263.

I have received your Despatch No. 33,* of the 25th of April, forwarding a resolution of the Commissioners of Emigration Correspondence relative to emigration from the Cape de Verde islands.

2nd June 1857. Enclosure.

I referred your Despatch to the Emigration Commissioners, and I transmit for your information a copy of their report.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Bell, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 26.

Enclosure in No. 26.

Sir, Emigration Office, June 2, 1857.

We have to acknowledge your letter of 27th instant, enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Acting Governor of Jamaica respecting emigration from the Cape de Verde islands.

2. In our letter of the 12th instant we stated that we had entered into a negotiation on this subject with Messrs. Visger and Miller (relatives of the Consul at the Cape de Verde islands), and had broken it off because those gentlemen demanded the exorbitant sum (as it appeared to us) of 80 dollars a head for the emigrants introduced. Nor does it appear to us probable either that we should succeed in setting on foot an emigration otherwise than through the Consul, or that we should at the present moment gain any advantage by reopening our communication with him. We shall therefore allow the matter to stand over for the present.

3. It appears to us that the matter is one which can be much more effectually dealt with by a private individual than by a Government office, and that the best chance of setting the emigration on foot would be by following the example of British Guiana, where a bounty of 50 dollars is proclaimed on the introduction of Cape de Verde islanders, and their actual introduction is left to be effected by a private arrangement between the ship-owners or planters who choose to embark in the enterprise, and the gentlemen in the Cape de Verde islands who are enabled by circumstances to procure emigrants.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

Despatches from the Governor.

No. 1. No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY to His Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 79.) King's House, July 5, 1854.
(Received July 31, 1854.)

MY LORD DUKE,

HAVING laid your Grace's Despatch of 16th May, No. 88,* on the subject of Madeira immigration, before the Board of Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence, by whom it was received with great satisfaction, I have now the honour to submit copy of a notice to shipowners, offering a bounty at the rate of 7*l.* per adult for the conveyance of immigrants from that island, which the Agent-General has by my directions issued, in accordance with the suggestion of one of the Commissioners.

* Page 241.

Enclosure.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

Enclosure in No. 1. Encl. in No. 1.

NOTICE TO SHIPOWNERS, MASTERS, AND OTHERS.

Jamaica, July 3, 1854.

HER Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies has sanctioned the offer by the Commissioners of Correspondence of the following bounties on the introduction of Madeiranese emigrants into Jamaica, such bounties to include all outlay for passports, clothing, and other expenses whatever, viz., 7*l.* per adult on each able labourer, from 14 to 40 years of age; and 3*l.* 10*s.* on each child between 1 and 14 years of age.

By Command, (Signed) D. EWART, Agent-General of Immigration.

No. 2. No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 86.) King's House, July 10, 1854.
(Received July 31, 1854.)
(Answered, No. 33, September 11, 1854, page 244.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Duke of Newcastle's Despatches * noted in the margin on the subject of Chinese immigration, and am not surprised, under all the circumstances, that it has been determined to abandon for the present any attempt to procure such immigrants for Jamaica, and to sanction Mr. White's return from China, where it appears that, owing to the high rates demanded for tonnage, he could be of little use.

* No. 82.— 9 May, 1854, p. 240. No. 93.— 12 June, 1854, p. 241. No. 95.— 12 June, 1854, p. 243.

Should the "Epsom," as he anticipates, keep to her charter-party, and land a cargo of immigrants in this island, we shall be enabled to study their habits, and to ascertain how far they are likely to become a valuable addition to our labouring population; and it appears to me probable that if the experiment is encouraging, a large number might next year be procured at a very cheap rate from the isthmus of Panama, where 4,000 Chinese are at work upon the railway, which by that time will be finished.

They are said to have emigrated thither upon a promise of 16*s.* per month; and as higher wages could be offered them in Jamaica, from which they are only four or five days distant, I think they might easily be induced to prefer coming on here to undertaking a long voyage back to their own country.

JAMAICA.

If the project were sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, and a bounty of 6*l.* or 7*l.* a head allowed to be offered, I should be sanguine of being able to effect some arrangement for their conveyance.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

No. 3.

No. 3.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. BARKLY to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY.

(No. 94.)

King's House, August 22, 1854.

(Received September 18, 1854.)

SIR,

(Answered, No. 37, October 10, 1854 p. 244).

* Page 253.

IN my Despatch of 10th ultimo, No.* 86, I took occasion to mention, in reference to the opinion which the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners had expressed, as to the hopelessness of continuing the attempt to procure immigrants from China after the refusal of the Board of Correspondence in this island to sanction any increase of expenditure beyond 20*l.* (100 dollars) per caput, that I entertained some expectation of being able to obtain a large number of this valuable description of labourers at a far cheaper rate from the Isthmus of Panama, on the completion of the railway now in course of construction across it.

2. Subsequently inquiry convinced me that I had been mis-informed as to the number actually brought there, for it would seem that after little more than 1,000 had arrived, it was found that they suffered very severely from the climate, and it was determined to countermand the order for the remaining 3,000, and to supply their place by Negroes from Jamaica, who it was supposed would alone prove capable of withstanding the deadly malaria of the interior forests.

3. For the latter object, accordingly, arrangements were made by the Panama Railway Company with Mr. S. Wortley, a gentleman formerly employed in the construction of the line between Kingston and Spanish Town, through whose agency about 2,500 labourers have been despatched hence since the beginning of the year; and the experiment must, to a certain extent, have succeeded, despite the complaints which have reached me of their indolence, and of the extravagant rate at which their labour had to be remunerated, for orders have recently been sent over to engage at least 800 more.

4. Mr. Wortley at the same time informed me that the chief engineer, Colonel Totten, had stated openly that if he were sure of receiving this additional number free of the cost of conveyance, he would gladly get rid of all the Chinese still alive, as they gave him a great deal of trouble, and threatened to put the Company to much expense before their five years' indentures were fulfilled; and as he expressed himself willing to act as agent for the Colony in some such double arrangement, I brought the matter under the consideration of a special meeting of the Board of Immigration correspondence, and agreed, at their suggestion, to the appointment of a sub-committee to confer with him upon the subject.

Enclosure 1.

5. I have now the honour to enclose a Report from this sub-committee, stating that Mr. Wortley had signified his willingness to bring over the 800 Chinese in question on such extremely advantageous terms, viz., 6*l.* per caput,

Enclosure 2.

that I did not hesitate, looking to the urgency of the case, to sanction their being guaranteed to him without awaiting your reply to the proposal; and I have further to inform you that I have, in concert with him, sent to the Isthmus Dr. Faulkner, a medical man of good reputation, to examine and pass each of the immigrants before embarkation, and likewise the head interpreter, Wang-te-Chang, who recently came here in the "Epsom," and was quite ready to undertake to explain to his fellow-countrymen the nature of the prospects which awaited them in Jamaica, and to ascertain for my satisfaction that they fully understood the arrangement by which it was contemplated to transfer their indentures from the Panama Railway Company to the Immigration Agent General.

6. I trust that the mission will be successful, and that you will not disapprove of my assenting to the only practicable plan for the mitigation of the increased

scarcity of labour occasioned by the emigration, even though temporary only, of so many of the black labourers; a plan, too, which if the difficulty in regard to the absence of female immigrants from China can be surmounted, may prove the forerunner of a much cheaper and safer immigration from that country viâ the Isthmus, the journey by that route occupying, as will be seen by a letter which I enclose, less than half the time which it takes to come round either Cape Horn or the Cape of Good Hope. Enclosure 3.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

Enclosure 1 in No. 3. Encl. 1 in No. 3.

May it please your Excellency,

Your Committee appointed this day to negotiate with Mr. Wortley, beg leave to report that they have fixed with that gentleman that he shall at once proceed to the Isthmus, and use his best endeavours to procure the Chinese as immigrants to this island, and that he shall receive from the island treasury on landing such immigrants in Jamaica, a sum not exceeding 6*l.* per capita, and that if by negociation with the railway company he shall be able to make such arrangements as will enable him to lessen the charge to the island for this importation, he will make a corresponding reduction in his charge.

(Signed) JAMES PORTEOUS.
R. OSBORN.
HENRY FRANKLIN.

August 15, 1854.

Enclosure 2 in No. 3. Encl. 2 in No. 3.

SIR, Spanish Town, August 15, 1854.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of this day, mentioning the terms on which the Committee of the Board of Immigration Correspondence have reported that they recommend I should be employed as an agent for this Government in negociating the assignment by the Panama Railway Company, of their claims on the services of about 800 Chinese labourers; and I beg to intimate that I accede to them, and shall feel obliged by your Excellency's accrediting me to the service.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) S. S. WORTLEY.

Enclosure 3 in No. 3. Encl. 3 in No. 3.

DEAR SIR, Aspinwall, July 24, 1854.

THE best house in N. Y. engaged in the China trade is Howland and Aspinwall. This is the firm who procured the 1,000 Chinese for our work; they did it with great dispatch, and landed the men in first-rate order; only six out of 1,023 having died on the passage. One of their ships, the "Sea Witch," brought 730 in 48 days from China. These men cost us £140 each, landed at Panama; they were all choice men picked out of a lot of over 3,000 who presented themselves as candidates for fortune, and the P. R. R. Another good house in N. Y. engaged in the China trade, is A. Gou and Bro.

If the authorities of Jamaica propose getting men from China, they should by all means pass them across the Isthmus of Panama, as the journey can be made this way in 55 days, which is of the greatest importance to their health.

Yours, &c.

S. S. Wortley, Esq., Kingston. (Signed) CHAS. H. GREEN.

No. 4. No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. BARKLY to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 104.) King's House, October 10, 1854.
(Received November 1, 1854.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 54, November 16, 1854, page 245.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of 11th ult., No. 33,* referring me to the Duke of Newcastle's statement of the objections to the continuance of Chinese immigration, on the score of the

* Page 244.

JAMAICA.

absence of females, as an answer to an application made by me on the 10th July for permission to offer a bounty of six or seven pounds a head for every such immigrant introduced from the isthmus of Panama, whither a good many had gone to work upon the railway.

I had not previously regarded his Grace's Despatch of 12th June, No. 95, as designed to put an immediate stop to the costly experiment instituted in respect to Chinese labour, inasmuch as it speaks of the probability, in the event of ships being procurable on cheaper terms, of another agent being sent to ascertain in what manner an emigration of females as well as males could be set on foot; nor did the Board of Immigration Correspondence here put such a construction on it, as is proved by the fact that at the very meeting at which it was read (15th August), a resolution, of which I have now the honour to enclose a copy, was passed, authorizing steps to be taken to open up a communication with the agent of the railway company as to the Chinese under contract.

Enclosure 1.

In pursuance of this resolution a medical man, Dr. Falconer, and Wang-te-Chang, the young mandarin interpreter who came in the "Epsom," accompanied Mr. Wortley to Panama, whence they returned without having accomplished the object of their mission, and giving, as will be seen from their reports, a terrible account of the sufferings of the unfortunate immigrants who had ventured into those pestilential regions.

Enclosure 2.

Having brought the matter again under the consideration of the Board, it was determined, notwithstanding these unfavourable accounts, to send Dr. Wortley and the interpreter back again to the isthmus to carry out an agreement with Mr. Wortley to land the survivors here at a cost of 6*l.* a head, with the full assent of the railway company, which he expected meanwhile to obtain from New York.

They had scarcely sailed hence when your Despatch arrived, placing me in a somewhat delicate and responsible position; but I trust, looking at the removal of the two or three hundred unfortunate wretches who remain, in the light of a measure of humanity rather than anything else, you will not disapprove of my having left matters to take their course, instead of sending instructions for their recall, which would have created no little dissatisfaction, as the colonists would have preferred that the experiment of introducing Chinese should never have been sanctioned, to its being suddenly stopped after one shipload only had arrived, at great expense.

I will report the further issue of the mission to the isthmus as soon as I am in a position to do so, and meanwhile

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

Encl. 1 in No. 4.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence, held at King's House, Jamaica, on the 15th August 1854.

THE Governor mentioned to the Board that he had had several conversations with Mr. Wortley, respecting the introduction into Jamaica of a number of Chinese immigrants, who are under contract with the Panama Railway Company, and who the company is desirous of parting with, provided each Chinaman be replaced by a volunteer from Jamaica; and His Excellency laid before the Board a letter from Mr. Wortley to the Governor's Secretary, in which the cost per head was put down at 7*l.*

Resolved,—That a committee of three be appointed to co-operate with the Governor in arranging with Mr. Wortley and a medical man to go to the isthmus by the "Vampire," to select and procure Chinese labourers.

The Governor nominated, with their consent, the following gentlemen to be such committee:—

Mr. FRANKLIN,
The Honourable Mr. PORTEOUS,
and
Mr. OSBORN.

JAMAICA.

Copy.

To His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, Governor, and the Honourable the Commissioners of Immigration of Jamaica, &c.

The Report of John Falconer, Doctor of Medicine, on the number, and state, and condition of the Chinese, which he was permitted to see and inspect at Cardenas, and as to others whom he cursorily saw.

In obedience to the warrant of His Excellency the Governor of the 16th August last, appointing me under the authority of your Honourable Board as Examining Surgeon to inspect and to pass or reject any Chinese that might be presented to me as intending to emigrate to Jamaica, I have to report,—

That I left this island on the 24th day of August, and proceeded to Navy Bay or Colon; on my arrival there I was introduced to Colonel Totten, Chief Engineer and Superintendent of the Panama Railway, now in the course of construction; but no Chinese were presented to me there for inspection by the contracting agent, Mr. Wortley. I proceeded by railway the next day to the summit station, where Mr. Wortley quitted me and returned to Navy Bay, intending to proceed to New York to ascertain what arrangements he could make with the railway directors for a transfer of the Chinese employed under contract on their line. This obstacle in the way of the contracting agent would have rendered my journey altogether abortive unless I could obtain a sight of the people.

Mr. Whang, the interpreter, and I, accordingly proceeded to Panama and Cardenas for the purpose of enabling me to obtain the best inspection to be had of the Chinese employed on the railway line. At Cardenas I visited the hospital, in which 140 Chinese were patients; of these two-thirds had ulcers and the rest were laid up with fever, diarrhœa, &c. On the line of railway I saw a number of fine athletic Chinese, apparently in the prime of life. I understood the number to be 65. I saw another lot of 50 men, chiefly with ulcers, proceeding from Panama to Cardenas. I subsequently saw them entering the hospital at Cardenas after a walk of five miles; these latter when I first saw them were not at work.

Chinese immigrants, as a body, judging from the sample of 65 working men I saw at Cardenas, I should have accepted as proper labourers for Jamaica, considering that they would have answered remarkably well where proper food could be obtained for them.

I think it my duty to put his Excellency the Governor and the Commissioners of Immigration in possession of the fact that the Panama Railway Company imported within the last six months about 1,040 Chinese labourers, and that one half of them have since died. Suitable food is not procurable at the isthmus for these Chinese, and to this cause I ascribe in a great measure the immense mortality amongst them.

Having so inspected the people, and having previously been recommended by Mr. Wortley, the contracting agent, that when I had done so I should return to Jamaica with Mr. Whang, and await his arrival in the island, I accordingly sailed and arrived here on the 15th inst. in the "Vampire," and now hold myself subject to the order of your Excellency and the Honourable the Commissioners of Immigration.

(Signed) John Falconer, M.D.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

Encl. 2 in No. 4.

(No. 144.)

Sir, Immigration Office, October 3, 1854.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of Mr. Whang's report respecting his visit to the isthmus. Sub-Enclosure.

It will be perceived that Mr. Whang, with commendable feelings, regards his mission as one of benevolence and humanity, and pleads for the removal of his suffering countrymen to Jamaica, without considering how many of them, in the deplorable state in which he found them, would be able, immediately after their arrival, to labour for their subsistence as agricultural labourers.

I have called his attention to this point, and he has informed me that there are probably not more than 150 who would be able to support themselves by labour; but even all these, strictly speaking, cannot be called able and effective labourers.

Mr. Whang is at present in Clarendon, and I have only* that he appears to me to have been under the impression that the invalids, and, generally speaking, the inferior and less valuable of the Chinese, would be so assorted with the others by Doctor Falconer and Mr. Wortley that there could be no objection to the removal of the whole to Jamaica.

* Sic in original.

Hugh W. Austin, Esq., &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. Ewart, A. G. I.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

Sub-Encl. to Encl. 2 in No. 4.

(Transcript Copy.) Journal.

August 30.—At noonday, or 12 o'clock, our vessel arrived Navy Bay; as soon as its at anchor my friend Mr. Wortley went on shore to visit the America Company officer, and informed to him of me, and Dr. Falconer coming with him, and the America Company headman was so kind to us as he asked Mr. Wortley sends for us come on shore to take dine with him at his washing house; in this house we rested this night.

JAMAICA.

August 31.—Early this morning, half-past 7 o'clock, we had taken our breakfast, went to the railroad office to wait for train go with, and half-past 8 o'clock our train started, which arrived to one America Company station was at half-past 2 o'clock; here is the ending place of first passenger train going; we came out of train and took dinner in this station. As soon as finished our eating in hasty, then we going by the second train, which, carrying dirt without anything cover over the top, though unfortunately have met a little rain comes upon us, we using our umbrella kept wet out of us; now the second train is ending here, we are sorry of have not done yet of the third train-road, and no animals to be hired for us to ride, so then no otherwise we think of only depended on our weak feet going by, through the space of such dirt and roughly road of two miles distance off from this place to the summit where we intend to rest ourselves in this night, I walking with my umbrella instead of my stick, and to be my helper; when we have arrived at summit exactly five o'clock. I left quite tired, and all the lowest parts of my dress had filled with wet and yellow dirt; so I changed another suit of clean and dry dress as soon as I can, because I was afraid such wet dirt clothes keeping long on me and catch sick. This station-house is very small, its wall is made of cloth, and the top covered with reeds, which situating in the side of rail-road; from the bottom of this house down to the railroad is about 20 feet high, which, according to my observation, this railroad cut off through the mountains is also about 20 feet deep through. This house which I slept in is very small. I felt quite comfortable all the night, only behind of the house there are a great number of frogs made noise all the night, which given me a little trouble hear them.

September 1*st*.—This morning after we had breakfast half-past 8 o'clock, I and Dr. Falconer sad down on mule and horse we had hired for going to Panama, and said a good-bye to our friend Mr. Wortley, to return to Navy Bay, and going to New York we reached the town of Panama half-past 4 o'clock or nearly 5; here we both look for Mr. Harrison, but we could not find him out of where he is, so we stop in the Panama Town Commercial Hotel.

September 2*nd*.—Half-past 6 o'clock in this early morning, our friend Mr. Harrison coming to the Commercial Hotel seek for us; we met here, and going together to our railroad station, taken our breakfast here, I saw about 50 Chinese labour emigrants, who having ill sick in their appearance, with pale and thin face, and on their feet some of them sore and some are swell up legs and feet; now the headman of the station begin to send them up to the hospital; from this place to the hospital is about six miles distant. I spare a short time and went to stand among them, and attended to ask them a few questions; they gave to me an account of their complaints of a great suffering of this unhealth Panama country, as having rain wetting their clothes when they working at some place; soon it passed over, then that shining hot sun comes out to beat upon them. It was said (not for having rain only a single day, but almost every day, sometimes twice or three times) of for wants of fresh provisions, the America Company support them with daily salt pork or beef and rice without any fresh vegetables, except sometimes yam and tea once every day; and of their treatment is severe, as give them hard flog sometimes with blood come out from their backward bodies, and I asked them what they have done to make the Company people flog on them in such severe way, they told me they did nothing only when they caught sick, went to complain the headman in Chinese dialect, which could not make him understand till the time is come that headman send them go out to work; they go with those health but they felt sick and weak, not be able to work hard as the others do, so the headman seeing them, not work so hard as the others, then flog them, they then begin complain again as they sick and feel weak not be able to work, then the head-man did not understand, and he fancy himself that they speaking is abuse him, and go to flog on them more heavy and harder than first gave them. I saw some of them when they complained to me of their receiving such afflictions at here with their cold river tears burstly came into the eyes down to their clothes, and they themselves could impossible to stop it at this moment.

I felt very much grievous and pity on them with painful heart and earnest mind. I was not pity on them because they are my countrymen, but I am really pity and grief on them for they are made by God as we are, only God placed them in the state of living as difference between us. From half-past eight o'clock I came into the house to take our breakfast, soon as we finished it in hasty just nine o'clock begun to strike, now we ready our riding going to the Chinese hospital; as soon as we got there about eleven o'clock, we went into the hospital with Company's doctor who is attended to the hospital sick Chinese; as soon as he so kind took us to this hospital, he himself left us here, and to his medical room. Why he not accompanying with us to look over the Chinese in the hospital, I suppose, because so stink the hospital he himself could not stop there any long, and the other reason is, such so stink and dirty hospital he fear we to ask him question. All the ill sick Chinese in the hospital is more than 150. I, Doctor Falconer, and Mr. Harrison went round the hospital both down and up stairs to examine them, everyone the same, ill, only some of them is different in disease; they complained to me that they for wants of fresh water they drink use of salt water; but first time I did not believe such nonsense words, so I asked the interpreter how much fresh water each sick Chinese can get a day, he told me each one of them may get the allowance only one black wine bottom of water. Now I observed the reason is, some of these ill sick Chinese, well they feel thirsty, they drink off all the fresh water at once, afterwards their thirsty come again, no more fresh

water for drink, then they go out the door to get salt water drink by themselves for it, hope to stop their thirsty; and I asked them why some among them suicided themselves, they told of because when they had ill sick bring them in the hospital, there supply with food and water is not sufficient, therefore they thought they rather leave the hospital and wander about to seek for some food, afterwards that they felt tired and hungry in somewhere on they going, then they thought now they hope no more in this world, they then began to hung themselves. From this hospital to the fresh water place is a little long way, therefore they for want of fresh water but salt water is just out of the door, so they thought more easily get for drink, and they have got sore feet, not be able to go a long way off to get water by themselves, and the doctor not allow them go out of the hospital. Those who are dead in the hospital they Company's people carry them out, each one with two ropes fastening on legs and arms to some wild place, and heap them up in some number to buried into one hole of the ground without coffin, and with nothing wrap of only naked against cold and wet ground. Though said those poor people dead without funeral ceremony, as not necessary use of coffin to enclose; suppose there is one dead beggar lying in some way neither known, he is a native people or foreigner, doubtless myself, some person will come and bury him with coffin. Now all the Chinese labour emigrants in Panama is belong to America's Company's who brought them from two provinces, Canton and Fohkeen in China, to Panama, working at railroad, it was said in the whole number 1,040; they came here some of them six months since, some are five and some are four, now more than 500 of them is dead by disease, 30 or 40 suicided themselves, and more than 30 is heard as gone to California; now only about 400 still exist remain with the Company's station, 200 of them is fall into ill sick. With what reason of these 500 more Chinese emigrants the labourers of America's Company were dead by disease and buried without coffin, and with nothing wrap on them only poor naked bodies in several number heaped together put into one hole of the place.

Our first civil person thought, when we were born out of our parents, our body had parents' membrane enclosed it, so he taught those people to invent coffin for the use of enclose our dead body, either poorer or richer dead, and use coffin to enclose which is not funeral ceremony, and not custom to all it is by natural and general uses. Now I attended to ask those Chinese whom I met, that they wish to go with me to Jamaica, to leave America Company or not; they all answered to me immediately if I willing to take them go, which out of the hand of America Company no matter anywhere to go. I take them to be farmer, they are very glad to follow, so now I thought to say if any of my friends who has authority to get these Chinese labour immigrants out of the hand of America Company, to be farmer in Jamaica had broken their contraction; then I am very much obliged and will say he is a second Moses, for he did as the first Moses who brought the children of Israel out of the land of bondage of Egypt. Now half-past 12 o'clock, we return to the summit place where we intend to stop this night, when we passing one place, and saw one dead Chinese labourer lying on the dirt and wet sun-shining of one pond; I, Dr. Falconer, and Mr. Harrison approached him and examined, we only have observed on his both sore feet, and the upper part bad covering with his old Chinese clothes, so we cannot examine out with what matter caused him to die in the wet dirt and sun-shining place.

This evening about 8 o'clock we arrived at summit and stop here.

September 4th.—This morning at half-past 9 o'clock reached at Navy Bay, this evening half-past 5 o'clock and went down the vessel and returned to here.

Those Panama labourers, Chinese, when they were in China they thought they were going to the America's vessels to California and there to dig gold, but they never thought they came to Panama to work at railroad, to lose their lives by this sick unhealthy country caused.

No. 5.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 111.) King's House, November 8, 1854.

SIR, (Received December 2, 1854.)

I WAS glad to receive your authority for the payment of bounty on the Chinese labourers, expected from the isthmus of Panama, whose number, as it turns out, will be considerably less than contemplated in your Despatch of 10th ult. No. 37,* by which it was conveyed, for from the enclosed extract from one of our island newspapers it will be seen that the brigantine "Vampire," in which 197 of them arrived here, is supposed to have left no more than 50 or 60 behind, these 250 or 260 people being the sole survivors out of the 1,042 imported by the railway company from China but a few months back.

* Page 244.

Enclosure 1.

I am not yet in a position to transmit the usual reports from the Immigration Agent-General, or to give any account of the proceedings, either of Mr. Wortley, Dr. Falconer, or the interpreter Wang-te-chang, in the execution of the mission

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on which they were sent; but I have been in personal communication with them on the subject, and can confirm the favourable accounts given in the papers of the health and appearance of the immigrants from my own observation, having paid them a visit at the depôt at Kingston two days after their arrival.

3. I have reason to believe that they have ere this proceeded to the north side of the island, where I have placed them on the estates of gentlemen likely to give them a fair trial, with the exception of the invalids, who have either been placed in the hospital, or, where they were merely suffering from ulcers, retained at the depôt under Dr. Falconer's care.

4. The reports I have received of the conduct of the Chinese who arrived in the "Epsom" continue favourable, except in the case of 25 who were engaged by the Hon. Edward Thompson for one of his estates in Clarendon, but seem from the first to have disagreed with the overseer. The stipendiary magistrate of the district having in vain attempted to reconcile the dispute, I sent down Wang-te-chang, who on his return ascribed their dissatisfaction to their pay having been stopped whenever the wet weather prevented them from doing a full day's work, and even in some instances their rations, if they refused to turn out on the plea of sores which the doctor deemed too trifling to disable them.

5. Wang-te-chang, moreover, gave it as his decided opinion that the contract entered into by Mr. White in China was at the root of the evil, and suggested, as it was not likely to work well for either party, that a new contract should be substituted by mutual consent, under which the Chinese should find food, clothes, and medicine for themselves, receiving in return much higher wages. The rate indeed named by him, on the strength of what the overseer told him, as to the actual cost of the immigrants during the first two or three months of their service, was so high as to be altogether out of the question in Jamaica.

6. An attempt, it would seem, was subsequently made on the estate in question to carry out the first part of this recommendation, though not for the reason I have named the last; but whether on this account or because it was not, in the absence of competent interpreters, properly explained to the people, it ended in the whole of them packing up their things and marching off to the Immigration Office at Kingston, a distance of some forty miles.

7. Mr. Thompson was at first desirous, in vindication of his overseer, to prefer a charge against them for breach of contract, for which end they must have been sent back to the district for trial; but as the deserters had gone to work very steadily on Ellis's Caymanas estate near Kingston, I thought this would have been a pity, and he has I believe since made up his mind to relinquish all claim to their services.

8. Mr. Berry, the manager of the above estate, which is the property of Lord Howard de Walden, gives me the highest character not only of the Chinese originally located there, but of this new addition, and states, what I was very glad to hear, that though the latter had been working on their own account at the current rate of wages, and had repaid him the cost price of the provisions he had temporarily supplied them, the balance of their earnings at the week's end was quite enough to satisfy them.

9. It is clear, therefore, that the fault was not all on one side in Clarendon; and in fact it will prove with Chinese as with all descriptions of labourers, that while one manager fails to preserve a good understanding, another succeeds perfectly in obtaining their confidence and in rendering them both industrious and contented.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

Enclosure 2.

P.S.—10th November.—Mr. Ewart's report of the "Vampire's" arrival is enclosed.

Encl. 1 in No. 5.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

THE brigantine "Vampire" arrived in this port yesterday, in nine and a half days from Navy Bay, with 197 Chinese immigrants from the isthmus on board. Of these, we are informed by Mr. Harrison, who acted on behalf of Mr. S. S. Wortley, the Government Agent, that only 20 or 30 are unwell, and unable to work. Their complaints are

principally ulcers, and general debility, from the insalubrious nature of the climate of the isthmus. There were some 50 or 60 left behind, who were too unwell to come over in the "Vampire;" but as soon as they sufficiently recover they will come over. Their complaints are the same as those of the sick men who have already arrived.

We have not seen the new comers, but they have been represented to us as strong, able fellows, and well worthy the attention of the planters. They are certainly the cheapest importation of labourers that has ever arrived in the island, which is no slight recommendation, in a pecuniary point of view. The total number that was imported to the isthmus is 1,042, of whom all have died but the few we have mentioned. There can be very little fear of those who have arrived retaining their health, after the fearful seasoning they have received.

Besides Mr. Harrison, Dr. Faulkner and Whang-te-Chang, the mandarin, have arrived.—Mr. Wortley will come over in the R. M. C. steamer.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

Encl. 2 in No. 5.

Immigration Office,
November 8 1854.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival at this port on the 1st instant of the schooner "Vampire," from Navy Bay, having on board 195 Chinese labourers.

The selection of these people was entrusted to Dr. Falconer, under a letter of instructions from the Commissioners of Emigration Correspondence, and he informs me that he has made a report to the Commissioners respecting the performance of his duties.

I am now engaged in allotting these labourers to planters on the north side of the island, in pursuance of a previous arrangement sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor.

The number who are in a condition to be located at once as agricultural labourers is 136, and the remainder consists of 24 sent to the public hospital, in a state of extreme emaciation, and 34 suffering from ulcerated legs, who are at present incapacitated from working for their subsistence.

An interpreter accompanied these labourers from Navy Bay, and has accepted employment from Mr. Hosack, to whom the largest number of his countrymen has been allotted.

Dr. Falconer reported to me the death of 1 of the Chinese at the depôt the day after arrival.

Hugh W. Austin, Esq.
&c. &c.

I have &c.
(Signed) D. EWART,
A. G. I.

No. 6.

No. 6.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 46.) King's House, April 30, 1855.

(Received June 7, 1855.)

CHAPTER 21. "An Act to make further Provision for the return Passages, or the Commutation thereof, to East Indian Immigrants still in this Island," was introduced in consequence of the additional portion of the immigration loan appropriated to this purpose by the 17 Vict. c. 6. having been found insufficient; and as it authorizes the application of whatever amount may be requisite out of that fund, as should from the first have been done, I trust that the Colonial Land and Emigration Board will have no further trouble on the subject.

Vide App. No. 15. Page 456.

It would have been more complete and comprehensive had the words "still in this island" not been appended after "immigrants," owing to a misapprehension as to the state of the account on the part of the person who drafted it; but the intention of the Legislature to cover the entire expense of back passages and bonuses is so evident, that there seems no risk of even a quibble being raised as to the excess beyond the thirty thousand pounds previously appropriated, incurred prior to the passing of this Act.

Every exertion having for some years past been made to discover the number of Coolies entitled to a free back passage, it is not probable that many still remain undealt with; but as it is desirable to close the liability finally, and the continuance of such an option was not expressly limited by the Jamaica Immigration Acts to a certain period, (in Guiana two years was fixed for its exercise by the original Act,) two clauses have been inserted in the present Act, requiring, first, a month's fresh notice to be circulated throughout the island,

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and, secondly, forfeiting the right of all those Coolies who do not during that period come forward to claim either the passage or the bonus offered in its stead.

Vide App. No. 16. Page 456.

Chapter 52. "An Act to amend the Law relating to the Determination of the Contracts of Service of Immigrants, and the cancelling of the Bonds of their Employers, and for other Purposes," is an attempt to remove some of the obstacles to the working of the experiment of Chinese immigration, to which I have more than once called the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

As predicted from the first by those cognizant of the peculiarities of the Chinese character, the immigrants performed as little labour as they possibly could under the contracts entered into at Hong Kong, which bound their employers to lodge, feed, and doctor them gratuitously, besides paying them 4 dollars a month; whilst, on the other hand, the employers, put to very considerable expense for fitting up houses, and procuring clothing and medical comforts, for persons debilitated by a long voyage and previous suffering, and called on at the same time to give bond for heavy sums in repayment of two thirds the cost of their introduction, (about 18*l.* in the case of the "Epsom," and but 6*l.* per head in that of the cargo from the isthmus of Panama,) soon discovered that they had made a bad bargain. Disputes arose; complaints were made on both sides; the magistrates found it hard to interpret the imperfect provisions of the Immigration Acts, and impossible to reconcile them with those of the Masters and Servants Act, which were often invoked. In some cases the Chinese of their own accord absconded, and came up to town; in others, the planters deeming it fruitless to summon them for breach of contract, and relying on the 7th clause of the last-mentioned Act (5 Vict. c. 43.), to which such labourers are in express terms subjected, discharged them from their service. On two estates, again, magisterial investigations were held by my orders, in presence of the agent general of immigration and Wang-te-Chang the mandarin interpreter, and partially successful attempts were made to effect a reconciliation; whilst in a third the stipendary magistrate associated with another justice decided against the Chinese, and under the 9th clause of the 5 Vict. annulled the contract.

This was followed by an application to myself to cancel the bonds for repayment given by the employer in respect to such labourers, founded upon the 16th clause of the 15 Vict. c. 39; but the power there given was held by high legal authority to be limited by the words "as provided for in the before recited Act" (15 Vict. c. 38.) to cases in which the contract had been annulled at the instance of the immigrant, and not to be available, even where death itself had put an end to it; and the applicants were therefore advised to petition the Legislature, as the only authority which could afford relief in any of the cases above referred to.

Added to all this, much embarrassment was occasioned by the number of Chinese who had left the estates congregating in the neighbourhood of Kingston and Spanish Town, where the only mode of dealing with them was to arrest them as vagrants. And as the agent general of immigration, on conferring with some of them through Wang-te-Chang, was of opinion that if he had a small fund at his disposal to make advances they might be most advantageously set to work on their own account in the cultivation of new or rare species of produce known to them in their native land, the present Act was introduced, with the twofold object of enabling their contracts to be put an end to on equitable terms, and of facilitating their embarking in this fresh enterprise.

No. 7.

No. 7.

Copy of DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Bell to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 33.)

King's House, September 10, 1856.
(Received October 4, 1856.)
(Answered, No. 101, January 9, 1857, p. 248.)

Sir,

* Page 247.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular Despatch,* dated 6th August 1856, covering a communication addressed by Her Majesty's

JAMAICA.

Consul at the Cape De Verde islands to the Earl of Clarendon, respecting the desire on the part of the authorities of those islands to encourage the emigration of the inhabitants thereof to the West Indies, and further stating that 328 emigrants had left these islands for Demerara.

Enclosure.

I lost no time in calling a meeting of the Commissioners of Immigration in this island, and I now have the honour to enclose a resolution come to by the Board, to-day, at its meeting.

The importance of this subject is looked upon as very urgent for the interests of this Colony, and the Commissioners have directed their agent in London to lose no time in communicating with you, so as to ensure an early importation of immigrants of the description referred to in your Circular Despatch.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) E. W. BELL.

Enclosure in No. 7.

Encl. in No. 7.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence, held at Head Quarter House, Kingston, on Wednesday, the 10th of September 1856.

Read,—

A Circular Despatch, dated 6th August 1856, from the Secretary of State, enclosing a despatch to the Earl of Clarendon, from H.B.M. Consul at the Cape de Verde islands, respecting the facilities now afforded by the authorities of those islands for obtaining emigrants therefrom.

Resolved,—

That His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to communicate with the Colonial Office, in reply thereto, and request the Secretary of State to confer with the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, respecting the appointment of an agent for Jamaica, at the Cape de Verde islands; and upon such appointment being made, that the agent be instructed to send on five hundred (500) persons, in families, if possible, the expenses to be defrayed by the island of Jamaica, out of funds placed at the disposal of the Commissioners; and to ascertain what further number could be obtained; and that if the immigrants are found to answer, the Commissioners would be prepared to direct the importation of further numbers from time to time, to supply the languishing labour market of Jamaica."

True Extract from the Minutes.

(Signed) FRED. SULLIVAN,
Acting Secretary to the Board of Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence.

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor BELL to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 33.) King's House, April 25, 1857.

(Received May 18, 1857.)

SIR,

IN reply to your Despatch of the 17th ult., No. 116,* I have the honour to enclose a resolution of the Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence in this island, upon the subject of the proposed emigration from the Cape de Verde islands.

* Page 249.

I have also the honour to enclose copy of the Immigration Act of last session, which I have to request may be sent to Mr. Miller, H.B.M. Consul at the Cape de Verde, with instructions to cause every publicity to be given to the same in those islands.

xx. Vic. c. 8.

Vide App. No. 13, page 448.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) E. W. BELL.

JAMAICA.

Encl. in No. 8.

Enclosure in No. 8.

EXTRACT from Minutes of a Meeting of the Commissioners of Immigration Correspondence, held at Head Quarter House, Kingston, on 25th April 1857.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Lieut.-Governor E. W. Bell.

No. 116 of 17th March 1857, vide page 249.

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor then laid before the Board a further Despatch, with enclosures, from the Secretary of State, on the subject of emigration from the Cape de Verde islands, inquiring whether it is proposed to draw for any portion of the 5,000*l.* in the hands of the Emigration Commissioners; as Mr. Miller, H.B.M. Consul at the Cape de Verde, believes that he will be able, in the course of the year, to forward the five hundred emigrants to Jamaica, as applied for.

Resolved,—That the resolution of the Commissioners at their last meeting, on 2nd April instant (which states that the 5,000*l.* in the hands of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners is not to be considered as applicable for the purpose of obtaining emigrants from the Cape de Verde islands) be rescinded, and that his Excellency be requested to communicate to the Colonial Office that it is not proposed to draw for any portion of the 5,000*l.* in the hands of the Emigration Commissioners, and that such balance is to be considered as entirely applicable for the purpose of setting on foot the proposed emigration from the Cape de Verde islands to Jamaica.

It was also resolved, that his Excellency be requested, in forwarding the foregoing resolution to the Colonial Office, to transmit a copy of the "Extended Industrial Service "and Land Allotment Act" of 1856, in order that every publicity may be given to its provisions by Mr. Miller, H.B.M. Consul in the Cape de Verde islands.

True Extract from the Minutes.

(Signed) FRED. SULLIVAN,
Acting Secretary.

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

Despatches from the Secretary of State.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from His Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 10.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 7, 1854.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your predecessor's Despatch of the 6th October last, No. 120, in which he transmitted a copy of a letter he had addressed to the Governor-General of India, having for its object the removal of the condition that a Coolie labourer who has emigrated to the West Indies shall be entitled to a free return passage to India on the completion of five years' industrial residence in the colony to which he has proceeded.

I have to acquaint you that at the time I received Lord Harris's Despatch I was in communication with the Court of East India Directors in reference to certain modifications in the existing laws regulating Coolie immigration with the West Indies, which it appeared to me might fairly be asked for, and especially the extension of the Coolie's term of residence from five to ten years.

No. 175. 16th Jan. 1854. Vide page 1.

I now enclose for your information an extract from a Despatch which I have addressed to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Guiana, from which you will learn the modifications to which the Court of Directors have given their assent, and to which, should the necessary laws be passed, Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to give their sanction. I also enclose a draft in which I have caused these modifications to be embodied in the form and language of legal enactments, in order that they may be more immediately available for use in case the Legislature should think proper to adopt them.

Vide page 13.

You will find that the abolition of the right of a Coolie to a return passage to India, was not one of the points which I submitted to the Court of Directors for consideration. Had I been otherwise disposed to do so, it was clearly out of the question in conjunction with the extension of the period of residence to ten years. But I regard the abolition of the right to return passages in Mauritius as by no means leading to the conclusion that they can be properly abolished in the West Indies. A passage from Mauritius costs about 1*l.*, and there is constant communication between that island and India; while a passage from the West Indies costs 14*l.* or 15*l.*, and is only obtainable at that rate by vessels taken up specially by the Government for the purpose. It is not to be inferred that because it is no hardship to throw an expense of 1*l.* on a Coolie, it is therefore no hardship for him to pay 14*l.*; and even supposing that every thrifty Coolie could lay up 15*l.*, it should be borne in mind that a man who leaves his country for several years has a right to expect to take back to it a considerable amount of savings.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 19.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 29, 1854.

19th April 1854. Vide page 25.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a report from the Land and Emigration Commissioners, with a statement drawn up by Mr. Caird, of return Coolies to Calcutta in 1851, 2, 3, and showing the reduction of mortality among these people, since the adoption of precautionary measures.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 20.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 29, 1854.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a report from the Land and Emigration Commissioners, enclosing a statement prepared by Mr. Caird of the number of ships and emigrants despatched from Calcutta to British Guiana and Trinidad respectively during the season of 1853–4, and explaining the reason of the deficiency in the number of emigrants required by you. 19th April 1854. Vide page 27.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 26.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 20, 1854.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, recommending that the surgeons and interpreters of Cooley emigrant ships should be paid by the Government instead of by the shipowners. 3d May 1854. Vide page 31.

I have informed the Commissioners that I approve of the course which they propose to adopt.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 5.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 28.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 12, 1854.

I TRANSMIT to you the copy of a letter from the India Board, together with the copy of a report upon it made at my desire by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, relative to the demand made by the authorities at Trinidad of 36 dollars a head from certain Coolie emigrants for the back passages of their children who were born in the colony. 29th April 1854. Enclosure 1. 29th May 1854. Enclosure 2.

I concur in the view taken by the Emigration Commissioners of this matter. You will therefore send home the information required to enable them to repay the amount received from the Coolies for the passage of their children.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

SIR, India Board, April 29, 1854.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to enclose to you a copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Bengal, dated the 28th February last, with its enclosures from the Protector of Emigrants, and I have to request that in laying these papers before his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, the attention of his Grace may be drawn to the demand made by the authorities at Trinidad of 36 dollars for the passage money of each child above one year old born in that colony. Sub.-Enclosure.

I have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) T. N. REDINGTON.

TRINIDAD.

Sub.-Encl. to Encl. 1 in No. 5.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

Government of Bengal Emigration,
No. 10 of 1854.

Gen. Pro. 2d Feb. 1854, No. 40, 40 G.

HONOURABLE SIRS,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Honourable Court, for communication to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, the papers noted on the margin, on the subject of the refusal by the authorities at Trinidad to provide a gratuitous return passage for certain emigrants' children born in that colony.

Fort William,
February 28, 1854.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DALHOUSIE.

(No. 40, B.) No. 6.

From the Protector of Emigrants at the Port of Calcutta to Hodgson Pratt, Esq. officiating Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Protector's Office, Fort William,
January 17, 1854.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the most noble the Governor of Bengal, the arrival of the ship "Strand" from the island of Trinidad with return Coolie emigrants.

2. As soon as possible after the arrival of this ship at the emigration wharf the assistant protector repaired on board and landed the people from her, viz.:—

Men - - - - - - - -	143
Women - - - - - - - -	13
Boys under 10 years of age - - - -	7
Girls ditto - - - -	8
Infants.—M., 5; F., 4. - - - - -	9
Total souls - - -	180
Total adults - - -	163½

3. The "Strand" quitted Trinidad on the 19th August 1853, with 180 souls for Calcutta, and 108 souls for Madras, as per medical superintendent's certificate. No nominal list or particulars have been forwarded with them. Two deaths occurred amongst the Calcutta party, and two deaths amongst the Madras. There have also been five births during the voyage.

4. The party for Bengal have been landed in very creditable condition. There are no complaints of any kind, except on the part of parents of children against the colonial authorities compelling them to pay $36 passage money for each child above one year old. This arrangement they consider a great hardship, as it takes from them a large portion of their earnings, and I beg very respectfully again to submit it to his Lordship's consideration.

5. The Assistant Protector warned these people very carefully against the danger of travelling with cash upon their persons, and many of them have expressed their willingness to receive Hoondies upon their respective district treasuries.

6. The two deceased emigrants placed the little property they had in the hands of relatives before they died.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DAVIE ROBERTSON,
Protector of Emigrants.

(No. 40.) No. 12.

From the Protector of Emigrants at the Port of Calcutta to W. Gordon Young, Esq., Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Protector's Office, Fort William,
December 31, 1853.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Honour the Deputy Governor of Bengal, the arrival of the ship "Bucephalus" from the island of Trinidad with return Coolie emigrants.

2. Immediately upon the ship's arrival at the emigration wharf, Garden Reach, the Assistant Protector repaired on board, and reports having landed the following number of people:—

Men - - - - - - - -	278
Women - - - - - - - -	18
Boys under 10 years of age - - - -	3
Girls ditto. - - - -	3
Total souls - - -	302
Total adults - - -	299

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3. This ship left Trinidad on the 3rd August, the Cape of Good Hope on the 15th, arriving at the emigration wharf the 25th December, having been altogether 144 days on her voyage, during which time 12 deaths occurred—10 men, 1 woman, and 1 female child—chiefly cases of chronic dysentery or diarrhœa.

4. Of those landed, there were only four men requiring assistance or medical treatment. I have consequently not considered a committee to inquire particularly into the sickness or medical treatment of these people requisite.

5. The Assistant Protector reports that the appearance and condition of the people, considering the length of the voyage, is very creditable. Every possible attention has evidently been paid to cleanliness and ventilation, and the warm clothing supplied from the Emigration Department was found very beneficial.

6. These people had no complaints of any kind, but expressed themselves satisfied with the treatment they had received, and stated that their provisions were good and in full quantities.

7. They have brought large sums of money with them, amounting in the aggregate to nearly 65,000 rupees, and have been carefully and repeatedly warned against travelling with money upon their persons. Many of them will receive Government bills of exchange upon their respective district treasuries.

8. I have the honour to bring to his Honour's notice, that the parents of the six children by this vessel have been compelled to pay passage money for them at the rate of 36 Spanish dollars each. This appears a great hardship, and has borne very heavily indeed upon parents with more than one child. It also is an unusual proceeding, particularly as the children were born during the parents' residence in the colony. I beg very respectfully to suggest that Mr. Caird, the emigration agent, be empowered to reimburse the passage money to these poor people on account of the colony of Trinidad.

9. I have also the honour to forward herewith the money, Company's rupees 1,662 1, left by eight of the deceased men, with their descriptive roll.

10. Those of the other deceased who were possessed of property made it over, in the presence of the doctor and captain, to their relations then on board with them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Davie Robertson,
Protector of Emigrants.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5. Encl. 2 in No. 5.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
May 29, 1854.

Sir,

1. We have to acknowledge your letter of the 12th instant, transmitting the copy of one from the India Board, with its enclosures, from which it appears that the authorities at Trinidad obtained from certain Coolie immigrants a sum of 36 dollars a head, for the back passages of those of their children who were born in the colony. The protector of immigrants at Calcutta suggests that this money should be repaid to the Coolies.

2. It seems that in a memorandum dated June 5th, 1844, which was framed in the Colonial Office, and communicated to the India Board and the Governors of the importing colonies in the West Indies, it was expressly provided that "at the expiration of five years "every emigrant, *including all children who might have been born in the colony*, would become "entitled to a free passage back to India." But in the Ordinance framed to carry these conditions into effect, the provision respecting children was omitted. The local authorities appear not to have looked beyond the Ordinance, and seeing that the Coolies had plenty of money, to have given them nothing without payment that was not expressly secured them by law. Printed in Annual Report of C. L. & E. C. 1845, p. 71. No. 19 of 1844, p. 322; of 1846, p. 199.

3. We think, however, there can be no doubt that the colonists are bound in equity to fulfil not only the conditions embodied in the law passed by themselves (and approved by the Secretary of State), but those subject to which they had reason to know the emigration had been approved by the Court of Directors, and we have therefore to report our opinion that Mr. Caird should be authorized, if the statements of the people are correct, to repay them the money they have disbursed for the passages of their children, and to charge the sum to the Guaranteed Loan Fund, out of which return passages are now payable. But it would be first necessary to ascertain from the Trinidad authorities what sums have been actually received from Coolies for the passages of their children, and from whom, and (we presume) to obtain their concurrence to the expenditure, which is not, it is to be remembered, strictly obligatory under the colonial law.

4. If the question were an open one, we should be inclined to think that an emigrant whose wife and children were with him in the West Indies, might well be required, on leaving the island, to pay the back passages of such children as had been born there; but as the terms of the emigration have been long ago settled in this respect, and as the Indian Government has been recently requested, and has in part consented to most important modifications of these terms in respect of the length of the Coolies' residence, and their contribution towards their back passages, we should hope that the West India colonists would be content, in this comparatively unimportant matter, to adhere to the original

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stipulation, and to allow the few children born in the colony to be sent home on the same terms.

5. We shall, however, revert to the prospective part of this subject, in reporting on the Immigration Ordinances of Trinidad and British Guiana.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) C. ALEXANDER WOOD.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from His Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 29.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 12, 1854.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a letter from Mr. White, containing suggestions on the subject of emigration from China to the West Indies.

22d Feb. 1854.

Vide page 35.

With reference to Mr. White's suggestion that the Chinese headmen should have power to inflict on their fellow labourers "such a moderate degree of "punishment as will not incapacitate the labourer from his daily task," and to his remarks on the expediency of encouraging the settlement of disputes and claims among the Chinese, I have to observe that there would be nothing contrary to the principles of British independence in trying causes between Chinaman and Chinaman by a jury of Chinese. But I think further than this the Government should not go in establishing separate laws and judicatures for Chinese immigrants; or if they were to go further, it should only be when driven by a necessity practically proved.

At the same time, if the Chinese have such a predilection for their own customs as to submit themselves of their own free will, and with a full knowledge of the exemption which the law would afford them, to the punishments of a headman of their own race, and made no appeal to the law, the Government would of course have nothing to do with the matter.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot,
&c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 32.)

Colonial Office to Foreign Office, 28th March 1854, page 45.

SIR, Downing Street, June 12, 1854.

I ENCLOSE for your information copies and extracts of a correspondence between this office, the Foreign Office, and the Commissioners for Emigration, arising out of a proposal made by Mr. White, the emigration agent in China, to procure female emigrants from that country by making advances of money to male emigrants for the purchase of women in marriage, according to the customs of China.

Foreign Office (Extract), 4th April 1854, page 45.

Land Board (Extract), 2d May 1854, page 46.

You will perceive that the inclination of my own judgment has been to authorize the offer of a bounty to married emigrants equal to the price ordinarily paid in China by a man of the labouring class for his wife, the result to be expected being that emigrants will procure wives on the credit of the bounty.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office (Extract), 12th June 1854, page 47.

You will further perceive, that the Earl of Clarendon regards the proposal with great alarm, as involving the instrumentality of the British Government in promoting the sale of Chinawomen for expatriation without their consent, and that the Emigration Commissioners defend it on this ground, amongst others, that in China female children are habitually either destroyed or sold as slaves to procuresses, to be brought up as prostitutes, and that it were better they should be sold in marriage to be taken to a free country.

When an agent shall be again sent to China, he will be instructed to report, on the one hand, whether the offer of a bounty to men who have been enabled to marry from their own resources will be available to procure the emigration of married couples, or, on the other, whether the offer of a bounty in advance

to male emigrants, to enable them to marry, can be so guarded as to ascertain that marriages shall not take place in virtue of the advance without the consent of the woman to the marriage and to the emigration.

I send you this correspondence, in order that you may be aware of the very serious questions which are arising out of the disproportion of the sexes in the emigrations from Asia hitherto effected or set on foot.

It is necessary to apprize you, that unless the difficulties of redressing this disproportion can be in one way or another overcome, the emigration cannot be permitted to proceed. Her Majesty's Government cannot incur the reproach of forming over again in the West Indies and Mauritius such male communities as were formed in the earlier part of this century in Australia.

So long as the emigrants went to the West Indies to labour for a term of five years and no more, with a purpose, to be duly executed, of returning to their country and families at the end of that term, the evil of being unaccompanied by their wives, great as it was, might not be regarded as intolerable. But first the practice was adopted of inducing the Coolies to commute their back passages, and engage themselves to remain for a second period of five years, and next the Court of Directors sanctioned an original contract for a ten years' residence, and the result must be expected to be that the greater number of the East Indian immigrants will never return, whilst the Chinese, who make no stipulation to have a back passage provided for them, will also in all probability settle in the colonies to which they are brought.

These facts and prospects give an importance to the disproportion of sexes which it is impossible any longer to overlook, and unless that disproportion can be rectified it will be indispensable that the emigration should be brought to a speedy termination, deeply as that necessity would be to be lamented.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 8.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 1.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 19, 1854.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 23rd April last, No. 28, transmitting a report from the immigration agent on the Chinese immigrants in Trinidad, after the first year's industrial residence.

I transmit to you for your information and guidance a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom your Despatch was referred for their report. 7th June 1854. Enclosure.

I entirely concur in the suggestion of the Commissioners that immigrants should not be allotted on their arrival to any estates on which the medical attendance has been found to be careless or insufficient.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 8.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office, June 7, 1854.

SIR,

1. WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 30th ultimo enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Trinidad, in which he transmits a report of the immigration agent on the Chinese introduced by the ship "Australia."

2. The result of this immigration appears to be considered on the whole satisfactory. But on two or three estates a very great mortality, amounting to no less than 86 out of 424 persons, has occurred. This is ascribed by Dr. Mitchell to a very malignant epidemic fever, aggravated by the want of interpreters, an evil to which all concerned in the emigration have been fully alive, but which it is almost impossible to supply. By the writer of a note appended to Dr. Mitchell's report some of the deaths are ascribed to the overdoses of opium.

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3. We cannot, however, but be struck by the fact that the great mortality occurred on two or three estates, and that although on these estates the people were moved from place to place without any benefit, yet when transferred to other employers, "hands previously "useless from sickness and other causes became shortly effective." This fact appears to justify Dr. Mitchell's conclusion that much depends on the employer; and remembering Mr. Caird's opinion respecting the inadequacy of the medical attendance and inspection of immigrant labourers in Trinidad, it appears not improbable that much may also depend on the efficiency and care of the medical men employed on the different estates. We would suggest that the attention of the authorities should be directed to this point. We need scarcely suggest that immigrants should not be allotted on their arrival to any estates on which the medical attendance should be found to have been careless or insufficient.

We have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

No. 9.

No. 9.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir G. GREY, Bart, to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 4.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 26, 1854.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 8th April last, No. 25,* transmitting for my consideration a draft ordinance, which has been prepared by the Attorney-General and two unofficial members of the Council of Trinidad, for amending and consolidating the existing immigration laws.

* Page 297.

2nd June 1854. Enclosure. I transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom your Despatch and the draft ordinance were referred for a report. I concur in the views of the Commissioners, and I have therefore to request that you will adopt them for your guidance in passing the proposed ordinance in the Legislative Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Elliot,
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 9.

Enclosure in No. 9.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
June 2, 1854.

SIR,

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 23d ultimo enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Trinidad, with a draft Immigration Ordinance prepared by the Attorney-General in conjunction with two leading unofficial members of the Legislative Council.

2. This Ordinance was prepared after the Attorney-General had become acquainted with the terms of immigration to which the Duke of Newcastle had consented as regards British Guiana. But its progress has been suspended by the receipt of the draft Ordinance framed in England for the colony of Grenada, from which it differs in some important particulars, the Governor and Attorney-General thinking it advisable not to proceed with the Ordinance till they are secure of the sanction of the Secretary of State.

3. We shall proceed to notice the points on which Mr. Warner thinks the draft Ordinance framed in England objectionable, and afterwards to comment on such details in the colonial draft as appear to require observation.

4. Mr. Warner first observes that what for clearness we will call the model ordinance throws on the revenue of the colony more than it can bear of the expense of introducing the Coolies, which (with the return passage) he estimates not unreasonably at 25*l.* per adult. The charge on stamped agreements by the model ordinance is 2*l.* for the first, and 1*l.* for each of the four following years, amounting altogether to no more than 6*l.*, and no notice is taken of the contribution of 35 dollars (or 7*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*) per adult, which the Duke of Newcastle proposes, with the sanction of the Court of Directors, to require from Coolies towards their back passages. But by the colonial draft which is submitted for the Duke of Newcastle's approval, it is proposed to recover from the employers 1*l.* for the first year, and 2*l.* for every subsequent year—in all 9*l.*; and it is enacted that the Coolies shall pay such sum as the Governor shall require, not exceeding 7*l.* 10*s.* *a head*, towards their return passages. Mr. Warner suggests that if that contribution should not be allowed the industrial residence should be extended to eight years.

5. Secondly, Mr. Warner observes that no notice is taken in the model draft of pre-payment of the employers' tax by stamps, which he conceives, at least in Trinidad, to be essential to the collection of the duty.

6. On these objections we have to observe that we do not imagine that by the model ordinance it was intended to prescribe what amount of tax should be levied on the employers of labourers, or what machinery should be employed for its collection, but only to exhibit in the clearest and most available form the conditions to which the Duke of Newcastle was prepared to assent, so far as they affected the welfare of the Coolies. We can see, therefore, no objection whatever to the proposed increase of the tax on employers, nor (in itself) to the collection of that tax by the instrumentality of a stamp tax.

7. The contribution to back passages was unnoticed in the model draft prepared in England, because (as we have already mentioned) it was contingent on the decision of the Indian Government. If that decision should be favourable the contribution will of course be imposed, not, however, at the rate of 7*l.* 10*s.* *a head*, as allowed by the Colonial Ordinance, but at a rate not exceeding 35 dollars or (at 4*s.* 2*d.* a dollar) 7*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* *per adult*, or such other rate as may have been sanctioned by the Indian Government.

8. The proposal that if the Coolies were not called on to contribute to back passages their industrial residence should be prolonged, is not only consistent with the Duke of Newcastle's scheme but was actually suggested by him in his Despatch of 16th January last.

9. Thirdly, Mr. Warner admits that it is undoubtedly best that the immigrants should be under indenture, and that the prepayments by the Indian should be yearly rather than monthly, but he considers that the indentures on arrival should not be compulsory. The result of this objection is, that the Ordinance now forwarded embodies not the scheme proposed by the Duke of Newcastle to the colonists of British Guiana, but with slight modifications the original scheme which in that colony is represented as impracticable.

10. This point, though touched upon very slightly by Mr. Warner, is of so much importance that we feel obliged to enter upon it with some fulness.

11. The plan proposed by the Duke of Newcastle was that the Coolie on his arrival should be indentured for three years at the current rate of wages (to be fixed by the authorities), and that these indentures should be continued with the same or some other employer for two more years, unless at the commencement of one of those years the Coolie purchased an exemption for the residue by a single payment at the rate of 2*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

12. The Trinidad plan contemplates yearly indentures, the immigrant having the constantly recurring option of placing himself under such indentures, or paying the monthly tax of 5*s.* a month in advance, with the further option (of which, however, he has little inducement to avail himself) of redeeming all or part of the last two years of his industrial residence by payment in advance of the whole monthly tax to accrue during that period. And, further, the employer of any immigrant under indenture is authorized to deduct from his wages 3*d.* a week after the first year of his residence in the colony.

13. The arguments in favour of the Trinidad plan are, (1) that it avoids compulsory contracts; (2) that it does not impose on a Government authority the duty of fixing wages; (3) that by imposing shorter periods of service on the immigrant it leaves him a wholesome freedom of action; (4) that it facilitates the use of stamps and thus the collection of the duties from the planters; (5) that it obtains a larger sum from immigrants, viz., 3*l.* per annum instead of 2*l.* 10*s.* while they are not under indenture, and 3*d.* a week or 13*s.* a year while they are.

14. To the first and second of these it may be replied, (1) that the compulsion is more apparent than real, the true difference being that the Indian accepts a contract of service in one case before, in the other after, his embarkation; the choice of an employer, and determination of his terms of service, being in all cases practically with the Government officer in the colony; and (2) that the authorities in the West Indies appear to find no difficulty in fixing labourers' wages. The other arguments must be set against the advantage of the rival schemes, which are, (1) that it escapes the difficulties attending the collection of the monthly tax, said in Mauritius and British Guiana to be insuperable; (2) that it is based on the allowance of three years' contracts which is universally desired by the colonists, (even including the members of the Legislative Council with whom Mr. Warner is in communication,) which is stated by the colonial authorities to have worked well in Mauritius and British Guiana, and has been recommended by the various Government officers quoted in our report of 11th August 1852, on the subject of three years' contracts, and which tends to ensure steady if not zealous or intelligent labour and to repress vagrancy. Lastly, as the Duke of Newcastle's scheme is to form the basis of immigration into the great importing colony of British Guiana, it is very much to be desired that it should be generally adopted in the West Indian colonies, for it is evident that in the multiplied communications which are necessary between those colonies, the Secretary of State, the Indian Government, the Emigration Agent, and the individual immigrants, continual confusion and misapprehension is likely to arise if different colonies insist upon different conditions of immigration.

15. In balancing these advantages the remark immediately suggests itself that the collection of the monthly tax, said to be impracticable in British Guiana and Mauritius, would seem to have been effected successfully in Trinidad, and it appears unfair to deprive that colony of the benefit (if any) of a scheme which has succeeded there because it has not succeeded in other places. But the statement of a successful collection of the monthly tax even in Trinidad is not very clearly made, while the general desire of the

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colonists for prolonged contracts and the evidence of their satisfactory working is explicit; and we hope therefore it will not be deemed unreasonable to press on the authorities the adoption of the same basis of immigration which has been agreed to (in substance) by British Guiana and suggested to other West Indian colonies; that is to say, a three years' contract, extendible, in default of a single fixed payment, to four or five years, instead of yearly contracts with the annual alternative of a monthly tax.

16. With regard to the amount of payment, it does not seem too much to expect that the colonists, while obtaining from the Coolies the double advantage of an extended residence and a contribution of 35 dollars towards their return passage, should refrain from pressing the trivial addition of 13*s.* a year or 3*d.* a week to their previous payments. We should not, however, consider it unfair to indent Indians at somewhat less than the current wages for the first year of their sojourn in the colony, during which the value of their labour is below the current value. This is frequently done in Mauritius, and if this reduction from wages during the first year were but 6*d.* a week, the employer could afford to pay to the Government the same indenture tax (2*l.*) for the first as for the four subsequent years.

17. We now proceed to a few points of detail which appear to require observation.

18. We do not think that the provisions respecting industrial residence should apply (as by the third clause they are applied) to captured Africans, unless the money raised from them is to be applied for their own benefit, a condition which we imagine could hardly be satisfied, as the captured Africans become rapidly undistinguishable from the native Creoles. We also should think it undesirable to apply to a class of persons not so distinguishable, provisions involving so much of personal supervision as those for the collection of monthly tax, &c.

19. There is some indistinctness as to the effect of the 3rd, 7th, 8th, and 11th clause, owing to the mode in which industrial residence is defined. In the 3rd clause it is defined without any qualification to be actual residence for five years. The 11th clause entirely alters this definition by exacting that the time of residence shall not count as industrial unless passed under indenture or in payment of the monthly tax. And the 7th and 8th clauses provide that immigrants shall not be entitled to return passages at the expense of Government till the expiration of five years after the completion of an industrial residence, nor to leave the colony at their own expense without paying 5*s.* for every month wanting to complete their industrial residence, and in addition the monthly tax due since the expiration of their last indenture.

20. If according to the terms of the 3rd clause uncontrolled by the 11th it were possible to understand *industrial* residence merely as *actual* residence for five years, these provisions would be perfectly fair. But if the sense of "industrial residence" is to be gathered by the 3rd and 11th clauses *conjointly*, the 7th and 8th clauses will bear hardly on the immigrant. For if, as might easily happen, an immigrant's *industrial* residence were not completed before the expiration of ten years' *actual* residence, he would still have to wait five years "after its completion" for his free passage to India, although he would long before have performed the substantial conditions for receiving it. Clause 8 would be unfair, because under it an immigrant who had omitted to pay monthly tax might, when applying for a return passage at his own expense, have to pay it twice—first, as wanting to complete his industrial residence; secondly, as monthly duties payable since the determination of his last indentures.

21. It appears to us, therefore, that in the 3rd clause all mention of captured Africans should be omitted, and industrial residence defined to be the residence within this colony of any immigrant for five years under the conditions required by the 11th clause of this Ordinance. That in the 5th line of the 7th clause the words "after the completion of and" should be omitted, and that the 8th clause should end with the words "residence of such immigrant," omitting the two last lines.

22. In the 7th clause the Coolie's contribution of 7*l.* 10*s.* a head should be reduced to 35 dollars or 7*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* per adult, and a passage should be promised on these terms, for the reasons mentioned in our report of 29th ultimo, to the children of Coolie parents born in the colony.

23. The 10th clause empowers the Governor to commute back passages, not by a single payment for five years' additional industrial residence, but by a series of yearly commutations. We should have imagined that the former course (which has been sanctioned by the Home Government) would have been the most convenient. But on this, of course, the colonial authorities can use their discretion.

24. We doubt the propriety (clause 12) of depriving the immigrants of the benefit of an engagement to labour on account of the omission of formalities which he is not likely to understand, and which have for their object to obtain the Government duty not from him but from his employer. The penalty for the offence should fall exclusively, as far as possible, on the person who profits by it.

25. In clause 20, either the penalty should be "not exceeding 5*l.*," or it should be confined to those who "*knowingly*" harbour or employ immigrants under contract to other persons.

26. On the 23rd, 28th, and 34th clauses we have already expressed our opinion.

27. Lastly, in clause 31 residence of boys under 14 years of age should count, we think, as *industrial*. Else the right to return passages of parents and children will accrue at different times.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) C. Alexander Wood.
Frederic Rogers.

No. 10.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir George Grey to Governor Elliot.

(No. 6.)

Sir, Downing Street, June 26, 1854.

I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners reporting the terms upon which they have taken up the ship "Windsor," for the conveyance of Coolies to Trinidad. 17th June 1854. Enclosure.

I request that you will supply the information required by the Commissioners as to the chartering of a vessel for return Coolies, and also as regards the chartering of further vessels for the conveyance of new Coolies to Trinidad.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 10.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
June 17, 1854.

Sir,

We have to state that we have taken up the ship "Windsor" of 676 tons, at the rate of 13*l.* 19*s.* per adult, for the conveyance of Coolies to Trinidad. The "Windsor" is engaged to be off Calcutta on the 1st of November, and ready to receive her emigrants on the 1st of December.

2. We would request that this information should be transmitted to the Governor of Trinidad, with a copy (which we enclose) of the charter-party to be entered into on behalf of the owner of the "Windsor."

3. We have to point out that we have not received from the colony any instructions respecting the chartering vessels for the conveyance of Coolies to Trinidad, nor any instructions sufficiently recent or definite to act upon respecting the engagement of a ship for return Coolies. The last notice of the subject was that contained in Lord Harris' Despatch of the 2nd of November 1853, and alluded to in our Report of the 1st December 1853, paragraph 14. As the voyage from Calcutta cannot by law commence, and the return voyage from Trinidad ought not to commence later than February next, it is important that if it is intended by the Colonial authorities that any ships should be employed for either of these services, we should be so apprised in the course of the autumn. Indeed, the period for taking up ships in England for the out voyage will have passed before an acknowledgment of this letter can be received from the West Indies.

4. The funds about to be raised by the Treasury would probably be rather more than sufficient to pay for a return Coolie ship, besides meeting our existing liabilities.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. Murdoch.
Frederic Rogers.

No. 11.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir George Grey to Governor Elliot.

(No. 7.)

Sir, Downing Street, June 26, 1854.

I transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with copy of one from Mr. Caird, explaining why he has not been able to send the full complement of Coolies to the West Indies during the last season. 15th June 1854. Vide page 49.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

TRINIDAD.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 44.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 4, 1854.

* Page 309. I HAVE received your Despatch No. 58,* of the 23rd August, enclosing a minute of the Council, in which it is requested that 1,000 Coolies may be sent to Trinidad during the present season, besides the arrears of 1853-54.

Enclosure. 12th Oct. 1854. I enclose herewith a copy of a report from the Commissioners of Emigration, to whom I directed your Despatch to be referred.

In the absence of any such financial statement as would enable me to judge of the propriety of complying with this requisition, and bearing in mind that the estimated revenue of the year 1855 is not equal to the estimated expenditure, I have not felt myself enabled to do more than authorize an instruction to Mr. Caird to charter and fill (if practicable) one ship before the close of the season on the 28th February.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) G. GREY.

Encl. in No. 12.

Enclosure in No. 12.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,

SIR, October 12, 1854.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 9th instant, enclosing the copy of a letter from the Governor of Trinidad, with a minute of the Legislative Council, requesting that 1,000 Coolies may be sent to that colony during the present season, besides the arrears of 1853–54.

2. The Governor adds in his covering Despatch, that at present not more than twenty or thirty Coolies are applying for return passages; but that it would be desirable that a ship should call at Trinidad early in the ensuing year for return Coolies.

3. We feel considerable difficulty in reporting on these intimations.

† Page 275. 4. In the first place, we stated in our report of the 17th of June last,† that the period at which the wishes of the colonists would reach us would be far too late to admit of our taking up any ships in England besides the "Windsor," already taken up to complete the number of Coolies ordered for 1853–4. But if Mr. Caird were to receive the requisite instructions by the Indian mail of the 24th instant, he would probably be able to charter and fill one ship with emigrants before the end of the season. Looking to the number of Coolies already ordered for British Guiana, and the possibility of some being required for St. Lucia, it is doubtful whether he would be able to send a larger number.

5. A more important difficulty arises respecting the funds available for this service. The balance in our hands of the Trinidad Guaranteed Loan Fund is sufficient, besides meeting our present liabilities, to defray the expense of sending one shipload of Coolies from or to the West Indies; but is not enough for both operations, still less for sending 1,000 Coolies from Calcutta.

6. There is indeed an "Immigration Fund" in the colony, which is described, in Lord Harris' Despatch of 26th October 1853, as amounting to 13,541*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, and to which considerable accession was then expected; but of the present state and prospects of this fund we know nothing beyond what is there stated. It appears by the same Despatch that 15,000*l.* had been placed by the Legislative Council on the estimate for the introduction of 1,000 Coolies in 1853–54, which vote remains unexhausted, the Coolies having been in fact paid for out of the Guaranteed Loan Fund.

7. The Legislative Council, however, though, from our Report of the 17th of June, they must have been aware that little was left of the Guaranteed Loan Fund, do not allude to the question of finance in their resolution now forwarded; nor does the Governor touch upon the subject. The only money, therefore, which can be, as far as our knowledge goes, actually counted upon to meet obligations incurred by this Board, is the balance of the Guaranteed Loan Fund.

8. Finally, we feel some doubt whether the concluding paragraph of the Governor's letter is meant as an explicit direction to take up a ship for return passages; and knowing the extremely capricious changes of intention to which the Indians are addicted, we should feel some hesitation in engaging the colony to pay freight for a large number of Coolies without more complete certainty on that point.

9. If Sir George Grey should be of opinion that the Colonial Immigration Fund cannot be considered as available for the payment of back passages, it would of course be necessary to reserve the balance of the Guaranteed Loan Fund for that purpose, and it would only remain to ascertain with certainty whether a return Coolie ship will be wanted in

TRINIDAD.
12th October.
Sub-Enclosure.

February, the latest period for which such a vessel ought to be taken up. To ascertain that point we have ventured (as every post is of importance) to address a letter direct to the Colonial Secretary, of which we enclose a copy.

10. But if it be considered that the Colonial Treasury can safely be relied upon for paying the freight of the return Coolie ship, which will not become due for nine or ten months, and that the Home Government has authority to bind the colonial funds to that extent, it would be unnecessary to reserve the balance of the Guaranteed Loan Fund, and Mr. Caird might properly be authorized to despatch a ship with Coolies to Trinidad before the close of the season on the 28th of February next. For any larger number there are no funds available, nor is it at all clear that they could be despatched.

11. If Sir George Grey should be of opinion that a Coolie ship should be thus sent to Trinidad, we would request to receive instructions on the subject in time to send them to India by the next mail.

We have, &c.
(Signed) C. Alexander Wood.
Frederic Rogers.

T. F. Elliot, Esq.,
&c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure to No. 12.

Sub-Encl. to No. 12.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
October 12, 1854.

Sir,

I am directed by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to request information respecting the wishes of the Trinidad Government in regard to the engagement of a vessel for the conveyance of return Coolies to India.

In Governor Elliot's Despatch of the 23rd August last he states that "it would be "desirable that a return ship should call at Trinidad early in the ensuing year;" but considering the extreme uncertainty of all plans which depend on the intentions of Coolies, the Commissioners feel some doubt whether this paragraph is to be considered as a definitive direction to take up a ship; and they would feel much obliged to you if you would move the Governor to communicate to the Secretary of State, by return of post, the wishes of the Colonial Government on this point.

The Commissioners would prepare to advertise, not later than the first week in January, for a ship to take in return Coolies at Trinidad before the end of February, and to disembark them, at the option of the Government, at Madras, at Calcutta, or at both ports; and it would be necessary to guarantee payment of freight (whether Coolies were put on board or not) on a fixed number (say 200 or 250) of passengers.

Of course better terms might be obtainable if the ship were engaged definitively to put out her emigrants at one port in India—Madras or Calcutta—only; and if the Commissioners were at liberty to guarantee freight on the whole complement of the ship, at least on 300 or 350 passengers. They would be glad, therefore, to receive any instructions on these points, which would enable them to free the tenders from alterations or uncertainties, which, as they tend to embarrass the shipowner, tend, of course, also to raise the freight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. Walcott,
Secretary.

The Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c.

No. 13.

No. 13.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir George Grey to Governor Elliot.

(No. 45.)

Sir,

Downing Street, November 8, 1854.

I transmit to you for your information copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Hong Kong, relating to the emigration of Chinese from that colony.

5th June 1854.
Vide page 57.

With respect to Mr. Caine's suggestion, that a local Ordinance should be passed in Hong Kong for regulating this emigration, I have to observe that no such law could dispense with the imperative provisions of the Imperial Passengers' Act.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Elliot,
&c. &c.

TRINIDAD.

No. 14.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor ELLIOT.

No. 14.

(No. 50.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 15, 1854.

* Page 266. WITH reference to my predecessor's Despatch No. 10,* of the 7th March, in which you were informed that the question of contribution of 35 dollars by Coolie emigrants proceeding to the West Indies towards the payment of the expense of their return passage to India had been submitted to the Government of India, I have to acquaint you, for your information and guidance, that the Indian Government has assented to the proposal.

Mr. Caird, the agent in India, has been instructed to carry this into effect, in the case of all Coolies who may proceed to the West Indies after due notice shall have been given of this new condition, and has further been instructed to take measures for ensuring full communication of it to all intending emigrants.

All future emigrants will also be apprized that they will not be entitled to any public aid towards the expense of their back passages, unless claimed within eighteen months of the time of their becoming due.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) G. GREY.

No. 15.

No. 15.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 58.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 12, 1854.

† Page 267. WITH reference to my predecessor's Despatch No. 28,† of 12th June last, and to your reply of 21st September, relative to the demand made from certain Coolie women of 36 dollars a head for the back passages of their children who were born in the colony, I have to acquaint you that I have authorized the Emigration Commissioners to take measures for effecting the repayment of the money to the Coolies.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) G. GREY.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 62.)

‡ Page 311. SIR, Downing Street, December 26, 1854.

I HAVE received your Despatch No. 82,‡ of the 7th November last, in which you urge an immediate compliance with the request contained in your

§ Page 309. previous Despatch No. 58,§ of the 23rd August, that 1,000 Coolies should be forwarded to the colony.

I must refer you, in reference to your present application, to my Despatch

‖ Page 276. No. 44,‖ of the 4th ultimo, which has crossed your Despatch now acknowledged.

The season is so far advanced that even if the financial information before me were more full and precise it would be scarcely possible that any instructions now to be issued could be acted upon before the 28th February, when the season for the emigration of Coolies comes to an end.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) G. GREY.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 67.)

SIR, Downing Street, January 13, 1855.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 9th ultimo, No. 92,* reporting that there were sufficient funds to meet the expense to be incurred by the introduction of 1,000 Coolies into Trinidad during the present season, and requesting that instructions might be given to the agent in India to forward that number.

* Page 311.

My Despatch of the 26th ultimo, No. 62, will have led you to anticipate that the advanced period of the season would preclude the possibility of instructions reaching Mr. Caird in time sufficient to enable him to act upon them; and I regret to inform you that such proves to be the case.

In compliance with your request I have authorized the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to take up without delay a ship for the conveyance of from 300 to 350 return Coolies to India.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) G. GREY.

No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 17.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 26, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 20th February last, No. 18,† and I have to convey to you Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance of the ordinance passed by yourself and the Council of Trinidad, entitled, "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Laws with regard to Immigration."

† Page 315.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) G. GREY.

No. 19.

No. 19.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 3.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 5, 1855.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a letter from Mr. Caird, showing the number of Coolies which he had despatched from India during the late season to the West Indies, and the terms on which they embarked.

9th March 1855.

Vide page 65.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) J. RUSSELL.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor ELLIOT.

(Circular.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 23, 1855.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a Despatch I have addressed to the Governor of Mauritius in reference to the proportion of female to male immigrants to be required in future emigration from India to that Colony.

No. 20. 25 May 1855.

Vide page 66.

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You will understand that the views expressed in that Despatch on this subject are to be considered as equally applicable to the West Indies, where, indeed, it is still more important to redress the disproportion, inasmuch as the immigrants being brought from a greater distance, and for a longer term of service, must be regarded as constituting a more permanent population.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

No. 21.

No. 21.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Lord John Russell to Governor Elliot.

(No. 20.)

Sir, Downing Street, June 29, 1855.

* Pages 317, 318.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches of the 9th and 23rd ultimo, Nos. 44 and 49;* the first forwarding a resolution of the Legislative Council, suggesting that 1,000 Coolies should be despatched to Trinidad from India in the months of November and December next, and 1,000 more in the month of January next; the second urging, that since the necessary funds were available, as many Coolies as could be introduced for 30,000*l.* might be sent.

I have to acquaint you in reply, that I have authorized the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to instruct the agents in India to use their best endeavours to send to Trinidad 2,000 Coolies during the coming season; though I fear from the letter from Mr. Caird, of which I enclose a copy, that there will be much difficulty in obtaining the full numbers the agents will be called upon to send.

Mr. Caird, 7th April 1855.

Vide page 75.

Mr. Merivale to Emigration Commissioners. 18th June 1855, Enclosure.

I enclose for your information a copy of the letter addressed to the Commissioners on the subject, and also a copy of the letter therein referred to respecting the sending of Coolies to British Guiana during the same period.

You will perceive that the proportion of females is to be not less than one to every three male immigrants. My Circular Despatch of the 23rd instant will place you in possession of the views of Her Majesty's Government as to a progressive proportion of females being required in future immigration.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Encl. in No. 21.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Gentlemen, Downing Street, June 18, 1855.

I am directed by Lord John Russell to acquaint you that he has had under his consideration your letter of the 14th instant on the subject of Coolie immigration into Trinidad in the season of 1855–6.

Extract No. 6, 21st Jan. 1855.

I am to transmit to you for your information an extract from a Despatch from Governor Elliot, forwarding the estimates for the service of that island for the year 1855, together with an extract of so much of the estimates as have reference to the funds applicable for immigration purposes.

No. 49. 23d May 1855.

Vide page 318.

I am also to enclose a further Despatch, dated the 23d ultimo, received from Governor Elliot, urging the immediate introduction of as many Coolies as can be sent for 30,000*l.*, the amount stated to be available.

I am to convey to you Lord John Russell's authority for instructing the agents at Calcutta and Madras to use their utmost endeavours to procure the number of immigrants originally applied for for Trinidad (namely 2,000), in addition to those to be sent to British Guiana, as authorized in my letter of this day's date;† and the wants of the two colonies must be met in the proportion of two immigrants to Trinidad for every three sent to British Guiana.

† Vide p. 75.

I am further to convey to you authority for advertising, in this country, for two ships for the conveyance of the Trinidad immigrants to be at once engaged, for December 1855, and for January 1856, and you will instruct the agents to procure shipping on the spot for the excess of numbers that these two ships will not carry. The proportion of females is to be one to three males.

As there are ample funds to meet this expenditure, it will not be necessary to stipulate that the ships should be paid in the colony, and they may therefore be taken up on the same terms in this respect as in former years.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. MERIVALE.

The Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 26.)

SIR, Downing Street, July 13, 1855.

I HAVE to convey to you Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance of the Ordinance passed by the Council of Trinidad, and transmitted in your Despatch of the 11th May, No. 46,* entitled, "An Ordinance to encourage "Immigrants to enter into Contracts for further Terms of industrial Residence, "and to confirm certain Agreements of Service already entered into by "Immigrants."

* Page 318.
No. 7 of 1855.
Appendix, No. 18, page 464.

I observe in the Attorney-General's Report, it is stated that a bounty of forty shillings is to be paid to the immigrant on contracting a fresh engagement under this law. But it would appear from the terms of the Ordinance, that the consideration for the contract, as premium or bounty, is fixed at forty shillings, (as a minimum) in cases of contracts already executed, (Section 2.), but that in all future contracts (Section 1.), the premium or bounty is left optional between the contracting parties. I merely call your attention to this for the sake of accuracy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

No. 23.

No. 23.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir G. GREY to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 39.)

SIR, Downing Street, Nov. 7, 1855.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information the copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with its enclosures, from the Emigration Agent at Calcutta, representing the disinclination of the Coolies to consent to any contribution towards the expense of their return passages.

27th Oct. 1855.
Vide page 77.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

No. 24.

No. 24.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 4.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 3, 1855.

I TRANSMIT for your information the enclosed extract of a Report from the Emigration Commissioners, accompanied by a letter from the Emigration Agent at Calcutta, announcing that he had been obliged to abandon the attempt to procure Coolie emigrants on condition of their paying 35 dollars towards the expense of their return passage.

6th Nov. 1855.
Extract.
Page 80.
Mr. Caird, 22nd Sept. 1855.

I also enclose copy of a further letter from the Commissioners.

Page 80.
Commissioners, 23rd Nov. 1855.

As it seems evident that the agent could have obtained no emigrants if he had insisted on those terms, the course he took appears to have been quite right, and entitled to approval.

Page 80.
Mr. Caird, 9th March 1855.

I also enclose an extract of a previous letter from Mr. Caird, explanatory of the terms which he had held forth to the emigrants on embarkation.

Page 81.

TRINIDAD.

These terms will, of course, be duly fulfilled; I see nothing in them inconsistent with the provisions of the existing laws on the subject.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 25.

No. 25.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 47.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 14, 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a letter from Mr. Thomson, the emigration agent at Madras, which has been forwarded to me by the Emigration Commissioners, explaining that, in consequence of the late period at which he received authority to act as emigration agent for the West Indian colonies, he will be precluded from shipping any considerable number of Coolies before the close of the emigration, unless he can obtain the consent of Lord Harris for the extension of the period for shipping Coolies from the 1st March to the 1st April.

Enclosure. 26th Jan. 1856.

The Emigration Commissioners have stated that they see no objection to the course proposed, if the Madras Government consider it safe.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 25.

Enclosure in No. 25.

From H. THOMSON, Esq., Acting Emigration Agent at Madras, to S. WALCOTT, Esq., Secretary to the Colonial Land and Emigration Office, London.

Mauritius Emigration Office,
Madras, January 26, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have this day received the orders of this Government appointing me Acting Emigration Agent for the colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad, in the West Indies. But as this order has come so late, I fear the Commissioners will be very much disappointed in the number that will be sent from here this season. As I have only till the 1st of March for business this season, I shall apply to our Governor, Lord Harris, to see if he will allow me to extend the date limited for shipping emigrants to the 1st of April, to enable me to try and comply with the wishes of the Commissioners. I can only assure you that, had this order come one month or six weeks sooner, I should have despatched the number required this season with ease. I may here add, with reference to your letter under date the 23d of November 1855, that my present order precludes me from despatching emigrants to St. Lucia or Grenada, as requested in your letter, 23d of November 1855. Orders will hereafter be given me for these colonies, but I fear too late to be availed of this season.

I have, &c.

S. Walcott, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) W. THOMSON,
Acting Emigration Agent.

No. 26.

No. 26.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor ELLIOT.

SIR, Downing Street, March 19, 1856.

I HAVE to acquaint you that the question of the progressive proportion of female to male Indian immigrants to the West Indies has been under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I now proceed to make known to you the decision which has been arrived at on this question, as regards the seasons of 1856-7, 1857-8, and 1858-9.

1. The number of males to be introduced in 1856-7 must not under any circumstances exceed the proportion of one female to three male immigrants.

2. The number of males in 1857–8 must not exceed three times the number of females introduced in 1856–7.

3. For the season 1858–9 the number of males shall not exceed twice the number of females introduced in the previous season.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 27.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 60.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 16, 1856.

I HAVE to acquaint you that I have had under my consideration the question of the conditions under which Coolie immigrants should be brought during their residence in the West Indies for the second period of five years now sanctioned, consequent on the refusal of the Coolie to contribute, as you have already been informed, a sum of £35 towards his return passage.

I am of opinion that, whilst leaving the Coolie's first five years of industrial residence as prescribed by the existing law, the best course will be to enact that as regards the sixth and subsequent years of the ten of residence, it shall be incumbent upon him, as a condition of his claim to a return passage, that he shall enter into contracts, each contract to be of not less than one year's duration, or that he shall pay 2*l.* 10*s.* for every one of those years during which he has not been under contract.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 28.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 64.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 16, 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a report, which I requested the Emigration Commissioners to furnish, on the subject of your Despatch, No. 14,* of the 8th of February, respecting the appointment of an emigration agent at Madras.

31st March 1856, Enclosure.

* Page 319.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 28.

SIR, Emigration Office, March 31, 1856.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of 27th instant, enclosing the copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Trinidad, with an extract of the Minutes of the Legislative Council, suggesting that Lord Harris should be requested to obtain the sanction of Government to the appointment of an Emigration Agent at Madras, in case he should think that a Coolie immigration could be obtained from that port.

2. We have the honour to state, that as it appeared impossible that the number of Coolies required for the West Indies could be procured from Calcutta during the present season, and as the colonists of British Guiana had requested that immigrants might be again sent from Madras, Mr. Caird was instructed to concert measures with Mr. Thomson, acting agent for Mauritius at the latter port, for the despatch of Coolies both to British Guiana and Trinidad. It was subsequently determined that Mr. Thomson should be paid at the rate of one rupee for every adult sent to the West Indies. Some difficulty occurred in procuring from the Madras Government authority to commence the emigration, and the consequence has been that only one ship (the "Devonshire") has been despatched to British Guiana, while it is uncertain whether any will be despatched for Trinidad.

TRINIDAD.

3. It will be seen that the recommendation of the Legislative Council has been in substance anticipated, and we would suggest that this information should be transmitted to Trinidad, in order that the colonists may have an opportunity of ascertaining what sort of emigrants are sent by the "Devonshire" to British Guiana, and of determining whether they would wish the attempt to send emigrants from Madras to Trinidad to be renewed on the same footing next year. They will at once perceive the advantage of employing an officer who is already conversant with Coolie emigration (having sent some thousands to Mauritius), and who will be only paid in case he obtains emigrants, and in proportion to the number which he sends.

We have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

No. 29.

No. 29.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 67.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 25, 1856.

14th April 1856. Page 87.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a letter from the Emigration Commissioners, forwarding a list which they have received from Mr. Caird, of the Coolie ships despatched from Calcutta to Trinidad during the present season.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Elliot,
&c. &c.

No. 30.

No. 30.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 72.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 1, 1856.

Extract, 14th April 1856. Enclosure.

I TRANSMIT to you the extract of a report from the Emigration Commissioners, relative to Coolie emigration to Trinidad during the ensuing season.

I have authorized the Commissioners to instruct the emigration agents in India to send to Trinidad the number of Coolies required to complete the authorized complement for the past season, and to take up in this country the amount of shipping which they may consider advisable for that purpose.

I request that you will inform me what number of Coolies will be required for the season 1856-7.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Elliot,
&c. &c.

Encl. in No. 30.

Enclosure in No. 30.

(Extract.)

Emigration Office, April 14, 1856.

"WE would request to be informed whether we are to take up shipping for the conveyance of Coolies to Trinidad.

"The number ordered for last season was 2,000, and it will be seen by a report of this day's date that only 604½ adults were sent from Calcutta, while it is not likely that even a single ship will have been sent from Madras."

No. 31.

No. 31.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 80.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 31, 1856.

Enclosure 1, 14th April 1856, page 375.

I TRANSMIT to you a copy of a letter from the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, having reference to the emigration of Coolies to the West

Indies, together with a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom I directed Sir George Clerk's letter to be referred.

I approve of the several suggestions made by the Emigration Commissioners in their report, and I have informed the Commissioners for the Affairs of India that a copy of that report would be forwarded to you for the purpose of carrying these suggestions into effect.

Enclosure 2, 14th May 1856, page 378.

I have to request that you will guide yourself accordingly.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 32.

No. 32.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 81.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 2, 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information the extract of a letter from the Land and Emigration Commissioners, with a list of ships which they have chartered for the conveyance of Coolies to Trinidad during the season 1856-7.

Enclosure. Extract, 19th May 1856.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 32.

Encl. in No. 32.

(Extract.)

Emigration Office, May 19, 1856.

WE annex a list of the ships which we have taken up for the conveyance of emigrants from India to Trinidad during the season 1856-7. They will probably carry between 900 and 1,000 adults, and the cost may be very roughly estimated at between 11,000*l.* and 13,000*l.*

Sub-Enclosure.

Sub-Enclosure to No. 32.

Sub-Encl. to No. 32.

LIST of Ships chartered for the Conveyance of Coolies from India to Trinidad during the Season of 1856-7.

Name of Ship.	Tonnage.	Contract Price.	Port of Departure.	Date at which Ship is to be at Disposal of Emigration Agent.
		£ s. d.		
Minerva - -	829	10 3 0	Madras - -	1 November.
Eveline - -	904	10 16 6	Calcutta - -	1 December.
Adelaide - -	829	10 17 0	Calcutta - -	1 January.

No. 33.

No. 33.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 86.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 21, 1856.

I HAVE received your Despatch No. 40,* of the 5th of May, in which you forward a resolution of the Council requesting that 3,000 Coolies should be sent to Trinidad in the ensuing season.

* Page 326.

In my Despatch of the 1st ultimo, No. 72,† I informed you that I had directed the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to instruct the emigration agents in India to send to Trinidad the number of Coolies required to complete the authorized complement for the past season; and I have to request that you will inform the Council that, in compliance with their wishes, the agents in

† Page 284.

TRINIDAD.

India will be instructed to send the further number now required, provided they can be sent without interfering with the despatch of the numbers they have already been instructed to send to other colonies as well as to Trinidad.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 34.

No. 34.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., to Governor Elliot.

(No. 87.)

Sir, Downing Street, June 30, 1856.

It having been represented to me that the rule laid down by my Circular Despatch* of the 19th March, as regards the proportion of female to male immigrants to be introduced into the West Indies, might limit in a manner not intended the total number of immigrants allowed for each year, I have to acquaint you that I do not propose to maintain the proportion between the males of one year and the females of the year preceding, but that for the future the proportion to be enforced should be between the females and the males of each successive year, as follows:—

* Page 282.

In the seasons of 1856-7 and 1857-8, not less than one female to three male immigrants.

For the season of 1858-9 not less than one female to two males; leaving the proportion for subsequent seasons to be determined by future instructions.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 35.

No. 35.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Elliot.

(No. 100.)

Sir, Downing Street, July 31, 1856.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 8th April last, No. 34,† transmitting a resolution of the Council of Trinidad praying for the introduction of a certain number of Chinese immigrants.

† Page 325.

I request that you will express my regret to the Council that I am unable to meet their wishes. The strong objections felt by the resident British authority in China responsible for our relations with that empire, and for the conduct of any British service undertaken there, would make it undesirable to propose a revival of emigration from that quarter to the West Indies at the present moment; and I may add, moreover, that independent of such objection, the impossibility, so far as experience has shown, of obtaining the requisite proportion of female emigrants would render any attempt to renew the emigration, under the indispensable conditions, as to the proportion of the sexes, unsuccessful.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No 36.

No. 36.

Copy of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Elliot.

(Circular.)

Sir, Downing Street, August 6, 1856.

26th June, 1856. Page 94.

I transmit for your information the copy of a Despatch which has been addressed to the Earl of Clarendon by Her Majesty's Consul at the Cape de

Verde Islands, stating that 328 emigrants have left those islands for Demerara, and that others will probably follow.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 37.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor ELLIOT.

(No. 120.)

SIR, Downing Street, September 19, 1816.

I TRANSMIT to you an extract from a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commission, having reference to the claims they will be called upon to meet on account of Coolie emigration to Trinidad; and I have to request that you will give directions for the remitting of a sum of 20,000*l.* to the Commissioners, by instalments, as they have recommended, to enable them to meet these claims.

Enclosure.

The charter-parties of ships engaged for British Guiana provide that the freights shall be paid by the Governor of the Colony either by bills on the Emigration Board at 90 days' sight, or at the Governor's option by an amount of cash equivalent to such bills at the current rate of exchange upon London.

It may be desirable that the same rule should be adopted for Trinidad; but, as the question is not pressing, it may be as well that it should stand over for the consideration of your successor.

I have, &c.

Governor Elliot, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 37.

Encl. in No. 37.

Extract of Letter from Emigration Commissioners, dated 8th September, 1856.

For Trinidad four ships have been engaged, three in London and one in Madras, which may together carry from 1,200 to 1,400 Coolies, and cost from 15,000*l.* to 18,000*l.* besides a return Coolie ship (the "Arabia") which may cost about 3,700*l.*; but if Messrs. Caird and Thomson are able to send the whole number ordered, amounting to 3,000 immigrants, the whole expense (inclusive of the "Arabia") may amount to 43,000*l.*

Under the Trinidad charter-parties made in London (and probably under those to be made in India) the freights of these Coolie ships will be payable by this Board, 30 days after proof of the claim is produced.

The balance in our hands is about 2,000*l.*, of which 1,200*l.* will be required for the Indian expenses of 1855–56. The remaining 800*l.* is alone available to meet the expenses of the "Arabia," and of the emigration of 1856–57. It is not possible that any claim can become payable by us on behalf of Trinidad before the end of the year. But after that period, if the full number of Coolies are despatched (which is hardly probable), claims amounting in all to about 43,000*l.* might be presented for payment at the rate of several thousand pounds a month.

We do not know accurately the complements, or consequently the freights of the ships actually taken up, but we shall probably be sufficiently accurate for our present purpose in averaging them at 3,500*l.* a ship, and on this assumption the subjoined table exhibits the state of our actual liabilities as regards Trinidad.

Name of Ship.	Amount.	Payable in London.
Coolie ship "Australia,"	£3,500	1 January.
Return Coolie ship "Arabia,"	3,700	1 February.
Coolie ship "Minerva,"	3,500	1 March.
Coolie ship "Eveline,"	3,500	1 April.
Coolie ship "Adelaide,"	3,500	1 May.
Indian expenses, say	2,500	
Total	20,200*l.*	

Of the above liabilities, the freight of the "Arabia" must, of course, be remitted to this country before the earliest period at which it may fall due, *i.e.* the 1st of February.

TRINIDAD.

The freights of the Coolie ships might, if the Secretary of State thought fit, remain in the hands of the Colonial Government till the arrival of these ships at Trinidad, and then be remitted to us by the same post which conveyed to the shipowners the documents on which their claims were payable. But we confess we could not ourselves take the responsibility of recommending a mode of proceeding under which a mere accident or misapprehension might leave us without the funds requisite to meet our liabilities with proper promptitude.

It appears to us that the safest course would be to provide that the whole sum of 20,000*l.*, which is about the estimated amount of liabilities actually incurred, should be so remitted as to reach us in the following instalments:—

In the course of December, 5,000*l.*
In the course of January, 5,000*l.*
In the course of February, 5,000*l.*
In the course of March, 5,000*l.*

If no more ships were taken up in India, no more money would be required from Trinidad. If ships were taken up, the remittances above proposed would probably meet the first claims, and we should not fail, as news arrived from India, to inform the Secretary of State when and to what extent further remittances would be required.

As it has been decided that officers of the Imperial Government may properly be employed to make contracts, which are to be satisfied by Colonial governors out of the public revenues of the respective colonies, it may deserve consideration whether, if the Trinidad Emigration is resumed in 1857–58, it might not be advisable to adopt in that Colony, except as regards return Coolie ships, the mode of paying freights now provided by the British Guiana charter-parties. The whole responsibility of payment would thus be transferred from this Board to the Colonial Government, by whom (now that the guaranteed loan is exhausted) the requisite funds will be raised, and ample time would be provided for making payment through this Board, if it were found convenient to do so.

No. 38.

No. 38.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to the Officer administering the Government.

(No. 134.)

Sir, Downing Street, November 11, 1856.

* Page 332.

In reference to Sir Charles Elliot's Despatch No. 75,* of the 24th August last, I transmit for your information a copy of a letter from the India Board, covering one from the Court of Directors. The Court of Directors have no

24th Oct. 1856.

objection to the execution, under due regulation, of the proposal to commute the back passages due to Coolie emigrants for grants of land. I have, therefore, to request that you will transmit to this department a full statement of the terms on which the commutation would be made, and of the rules proposed for securing to the immigrants a full knowledge of the bargain into which they may be invited to enter, and the exercise of a perfectly free choice in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

The Officer administering the Government.

Encl. in No. 38.

Enclosure in No. 38.

Sir, India Board, October 24, 1856.

I am directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, enclosing a proposition from the Governor of Trinidad for the commutation of back passage due to Coolie immigrants for grants of land in the island, and requesting that the opinion of the Court of Directors of the East India Company might be obtained upon the subject.

16th Oct. 1856.

Sub-Enclosure.

In reply, I am desired to enclose to you a copy of a letter from Sir James Melville, containing the sentiments of the Court of Directors in regard to the proposed arrangement, in which they entirely concur.

I am, &c.
(Signed) William Leach.

H. Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure to No. 38.

Sub-Enclosure to No. 38.

SIR, East India House, October 16, 1856.

I HAVE laid before the Court of Directors Sir George Clerk's letter dated 10th instant, forwarding a copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Trinidad, respecting the commutation of the back passages due to Coolie immigrants for grants of land in the colony, and requesting that the opinion of the Court on the subject may be furnished to the Board of Commissioners.

2. In reply I am commanded to state, for the information of the Board, that the Court would not object to a plan of the nature indicated being carried out under due regulation; but before they can give their assent to the proposal of the Governor of Trinidad they must have before them a full statement of the terms on which the commutation would be made, and of the rules which may be proposed for securing to the immigrant a full knowledge of the bargain into which he may be invited to enter, and the exercise of a perfectly free choice in the matter.

I have, &c.

The Secretary, India Board. (Signed) JAMES MELVILL.

No. 39.

No. 39.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

(No. 135.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 11, 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information a copy of a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, relative to the limitation to 350 of the number of Coolies to be put on board any ship for the West Indies.

31st Oct. 1856. Page 102.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

The Officer administering the Government.

No. 40.

No. 40.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

(Circular.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 8, 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with the copy of a letter from Mr. Caird, enclosing an amended scale of stores and medicines for Coolie ships, and some printed regulations for the guidance of masters of ships carrying Coolies.

I have instructed the Commissioners to authorize the emigration agents in India to give effect to Mr. Caird's suggestion, that a gratuity of one rupee should be paid to masters of Coolie ships for every immigrant landed alive, provided the mortality on the voyage does not exceed two per cent., and a further bonus of 10*l.* in the case of no death occurring.

26th Nov. 1856, page 107.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

The Officer administering the Government.

No. 41.

No. 41.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

(No. 148.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 8, 1856.

I HAVE received Sir Charles Elliot's Despatch No. 96,* of the 23rd of October, reporting that he had made arrangements with a firm in Trinidad for the introduction, if possible, of 150 labourers from the Cape de Verde islands on a bounty of 50 dollars.

* Page 333. Enclosure. Extract, 26th Nov. 1856.

TRINIDAD.

I transmit for your information the accompanying extract of a report upon the subject which I have obtained from the Emigration Commissioners. I concur in the opinion therein expressed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

The Officer administering the Government.

Encl. in No. 41.

Enclosure in No. 41.

(Extract.)

It will be observed that the Governor is to have the power (as against the importers, we presume) of assigning the immigrant at his discretion. It appears to us, however, that he will not have that power except with consent of the immigrant, or under a written contract made in pursuance of the provisions of Article 9 of the Immigration Ordinance, No. 24 of 1854.

Clause 9.

It also deserves the attention of the Legislature that since the bounty on Cape de Verde immigrants exceeds 9*l.*, their industrial residence will not be regulated by the 17th clause of the Ordinance, nor do we see any other clause which would define their obligations in this respect.

No. 42.

No. 42.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to the Officer administering the Government.

(No. 150.)

Sir, Downing Street, December 9, 1856.

Page 109. 25th Nov. 1856.

I transmit to you the copy of a Report from the Colonial Emigration Commissioners, enclosing copies of two letters from Mr. Thomson, the emigration agent at Madras, in which he reports unfavourably of the prospect of emigration to the West Indies.

I have signified to the Commissioners my approval of the course which they have adopted in reference to these letters, and I have sanctioned the establishment of the proposed emigration depôt at Madras.

Page 111. 9th Dec. 1856.

I forward for your information the copy of a Despatch which I have addressed to the Governor of Mauritius, relative to the proceedings of the Mauritius planter to which Mr. Thomson alludes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

The Officer administering the Government,
Trinidad.

No. 43.

No. 43.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Keate.

(No. 4.)

Sir, Downing Street, December 19, 1856.

I have to convey to you Her Majesty's confirmation and allowance of the ordinance passed by the Legislature of Trinidad, and enclosed in Sir Charles Elliot's Despatch No. 102,* of the 25th of October, "for promoting "the education and industrial training of the children of Indian immigrants."

* Page 333.

No. 11 of 1856.

I observe that, under the 3rd clause of this ordinance, children between the ages of 10 and 15 may be sent to the school which has been established by Mr. Burnley with the consent of their father, if living and forthcoming, or in case they are orphans or abandoned. Nothing is said about the consent of the mother, a point which I should wish to be made clear.

Mr. Burnley's munificence in the establishment of the training school fully entitles him to the gratitude which is stated to be felt by the colonists, and I am desirous that all fitting acknowledgment of it should be made on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

Governor Keate, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 44.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor KEATE.

(No. 14.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 3, 1857.

I FIND it necessary to address you on two or three points on which the arrangements at present in force in the West Indies, with regard to Coolie emigration, are considered defective by the Indian Government and the Court of Directors, and which I hope that the Government of Trinidad will find no difficulty in modifying in accordance with the desire of the Court.

In the first place, the Indian Government are anxious to diminish the risk, that a Coolie wishing to return to his country at the expiration of his industrial residence may be prevented from doing so by some engagement in which he may have involved himself. They suggest therefore that every Coolie who has applied for a back passage should receive at least three months' notice of the time at which he is actually to receive it. It is supposed that he will then be enabled to put an end to any engagement which he may have contracted.

I should myself anticipate that the Coolie would secure himself against the supposed contingency, by abstaining from any long engagement while he is expecting the offer of a back passage. But I should wish you to give effect in this respect, as exactly as the nature of the case admits, to the wishes of the Indian Government, unless any other method occurs to you by which their object may be more easily and certainly attained.

The Indian Government also draw attention to the suggestion already communicated to you, that provision should be made for transmitting the effects of deceased Coolies to their relatives in India. I have requested to be informed in what mode and to what officer it is desired that this transmission should take place, and with what information it should be accompanied. But in the meantime I should be glad to learn what means exist in the Colony for collecting these effects, and whether any legislation is necessary for securing such collection, and for enabling the Governor to send the property to the persons entitled to it in India. If any law is necessary for this purpose, it ought to be passed.

The Indian Government also repeat their desire that compensation should be given to Coolies for any delay which may occur in giving them their back passages. And I have to request that you will submit to the Legislative Council a law securing to every Coolie who does not commute his right to a return passage a payment of 6 dollars for every 6 months which may intervene between the period at which he becomes entitled to his return passage, and the period at which he receives it.

You will of course understand that this provision will not absolve the colony from the obligation to furnish these back passages as they become due, but is only intended to compensate the Coolie for the delay (often, I know, unavoidable) which may take place in satisfying his claim.

I have, &c.

Governor Keate, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

TRINIDAD.

No. 45.

No. 45.

No. 45. COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor KEATE.

(No. 34.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 1, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you the copy of a report from the Emigration Commissioners on the subject of emigration to Trinidad, in reference to which, as regards the present season, the wishes of the Government of the colony have not been signified.

22nd April 1857. Enclosure.

Under the circumstances stated by the Commissioners, I have authorized them to take up two ships as they propose.

I wish to be informed what number of Coolies are to be sent to the colony during the next season; and I request that you will forward a full statement of the manner in which the expense of conveying the required number is to be defrayed.

I have, &c.

Governor Keate, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 45.

Enclosure in No. 45.

SIR, Emigration Office, April 22, 1857.

WITH reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo, enclosing a Despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, requesting that 3,000 Coolies may be sent to that colony in the season 1857-8, we beg leave to point out that we have received no instructions respecting the emigration to Trinidad.

2. The five ships despatched in 1856-7 with the return Coolie ship "Arabia," will probably exhaust the money now in our hands, amounting to somewhat more than 21,000*l.* But the Governor reported in his Despatch No. 99, of October 25, 1856, that 15,000*l.* remained in the Colonial chest available for emigration besides the 21,000*l.* now in our hands; and it may be inferred that the colonists desire the emigration to proceed, as the number of Coolies ordered for the last season (3,000) will have been nearly double the number sent.

"Adelaide." "Eveline." "Sir G. Seymour." "Granville." "Scindian."

3. Under these circumstances, Mr. Labouchere may perhaps consider that two ships may be taken up at once. In any case, however, as the time for engaging the first ships in England has now arrived, it may be well to remind the Government of Trinidad, that their wishes respecting the ensuing season have not yet been communicated to the Secretary of State.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH. FREDERIC ROGERS.

P.S. Since drafting this letter, we have received from Mr. Caird the annexed return of the Coolies despatched from Calcutta to British Guiana, Trinidad, and Grenada. We would suggest that the information contained in it should be forwarded to British Guiana and Trinidad.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 45.

EMBARKED.

Name of Ship.	Tonnage. Old.	Tonnage. New.	Contract Price.	Date on which placed at the Disposal of Agent at Calcutta.	Date of Departure.	Adults. Male.	Adults. Female.	Children. Male.	Children. Female.	Infants.	Total Souls.	Statute Adults.
TRINIDAD.												
Adelaide		639	- -	10 Dec. -	11 Dec. -	213	62	10	8	11	304	284
Sir Geo. Seymour		850	12 10 0	27 „ -	28 „ -	238	75	21	5	15	354	326
Eveline		814	- -	9 Jan. -	10 Jan. -	231	96	20	17	23	387	345½
Granville		698	11 0 0	15 Feb. -	16 Feb. -	154	100	25	14	16	309	273½
Scindian		800	11 0 0	6 March	7 March	156	81	21	14	16	288	254½
						2639	931	203	135	186	4094	3739

No. 46.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Keate.

(No. 35.)

Sir, Downing Street, May 8, 1857.

I transmit for your information copies of correspondence between this department, the India Board, and the Emigration Commissioners, relative to a proposed system of emigration from India to the West Indies by means of private agency.

You will see from the letter of the India Board, dated 20th of April, that the Government of Bombay have declined to sanction the proposal.

I have, &c.

Governor Keate, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

C. O. to India Board, 8th August, 1856, page 97.
India Board, 4th Sept. 1856, page 98.
C. O. to Emigration Commissioners, 20th Sept. 1856. Enclosure 1.
Emigration Commissioners, 10th Oct. 1856, page 99.
C. O. to India Board, 27th Oct. 1856. Enclosure 2.
India Board, 22nd Nov. 1856, page 106.
India Board, 20th April 1857, page 125.
Land Board, 1st May 1857. Enclosure 3.

Enclosure 1 in No. 46. Encl. 1 in No. 46.

Gentlemen, Downing Street, September 20, 1856.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to transmit to you a copy of a letter, which by his direction was addressed to the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, on the 8th ultimo, relative to the introduction into the West Indies of Coolie emigrants from India by private parties, together with copy of the answer received from the Commissioners.

You will find that Mr. Labouchere was of opinion that it would be possible to organize such a system of emigration in private ships, as would not be open to the objections hitherto felt to such emigration, and that the Court of Directors have signified their willingness to refer the question for the consideration of the Government of India.

I am, therefore, to request that you will prepare and submit to Mr. Labouchere such regulations as may appear to you to be best adapted for carrying into effect such a scheme of emigration as is proposed in order that they may be sent to the Court of Directors for reference to the Indian Government.

I have, &c.

The Emigration Commissioners. (Signed) T. F. Elliot.

Enclosure 2 in No. 46. Encl. 2 in No. 46.

Sir, Downing Street, October 27, 1856.

With reference to my letter of the 8th of August, and to your reply of the 4th ultimo, relative to the introduction into the West Indies of Coolie emigrants from India by private parties, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to transmit to you for the consideration of the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, and with a view to its communication to the Court of Directors and to the Indian Government, the copy of a Report from the Emigration Commissioners, in which they submit such regulations as have appeared to them necessary for carrying the proposed scheme of emigration into effect.

I am, &c.

The Secretary to the India Board. (Signed) T. F. Elliot.

Enclosure 3 in No. 46. Encl. 3 in No. 46.

Sir, Emigration Office, May 1, 1857.

We have to acknowledge your letter of the 24th ultimo, enclosing copies of a letter from the India Board, and of a Despatch from the Government of Bombay, declining to sanction emigration in private ships from that Presidency to the West Indies.

2. We have only to suggest that this decision should be communicated to the Governors of British Guiana and Trinidad for their information.

We have, &c.

erman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) T. W. C. Murdoch. Frederic Rogers.

TRINIDAD.

No. 47.

No. 47.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor KEATE.

(No. 41.)

Extract 22nd April 1857.

SIR, Downing Street, May 25, 1857.

I TRANSMIT for your information the enclosed extracts from a Report of the Emigration Commissioners on various points connected with Coolie emigration to the West Indies, together with the copy of a further Report from them upon the subject.

Vide page 129.

2nd May 1857.

I also annex a copy of the answer which I have directed to be returned to those reports, from which you will see how far I have authorized the Commissioners to carry out the several suggestions they have made.

Vide page 131.

25th May 1857.

I have, &c.

Vide page 132.

Governor Keate, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 48.

No. 48.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor KEATE.

(No. 44.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 12, 1857.

2nd June 1857, page 133.

I TRANSMIT to you the copy of a Report from the Emigration Commissioners, with the copy of a letter from Mr. Caird relative to the treatment of Coolies.

I have to instruct you to furnish the information as to the current rate of wages in Trinidad applied for in the report of the Emigration Commissioners (par. 17), dated 14th of May 1856, which was forwarded in my Despatch No. 80,* of the 31st of that month.

* Page 284.

I have, &c.

Governor Keate, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 49.

No. 49.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor KEATE.

(No. 53.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 24, 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 7th April, No. 21,† reporting the arrival of the ships "Adelaide," "Eveline," and "Sir George Seymour" from Calcutta, with Indian immigrants.

† Page 335.

28th May 1857.

I transmit to you for your information a copy of a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom I directed your Despatch and its enclosures to be referred, and also a copy of their report on the British Guiana ships, to which they refer.

Enclosure 1.

4th May 1857, page 125.

I have to call your attention to the remarks of the Commissioners on the complaint of the Immigration Committee of the Council of Trinidad as to the disproportion in the number of arrivals of vessels with immigrants in Trinidad and in Demerara, and I have to observe that it was not until the 5th of June of last year that I received the requisition from Trinidad for the number of immigrants required during the season of 1856–7.

With respect to immigrants for the coming season you will have learnt from my Despatch of the 1st ultimo, No. 34, that without waiting for the usual requisition I had authorized the Land and Emigration Commissioners to take up two ships for Trinidad, and I only await your answer to that Despatch to enable me to give them instructions as to the total number that are to be sent.

I do not doubt the value to the colony of the industry of Chinese immigrants; but you must be aware of the obstacles which have existed to their introduction. In the first place, there is the difficulty of procuring the required proportion of females, and I regret to say that the governor of Hong Kong reports that no law or custom of the Chinese is more rooted than that which

forbids the removal of women. Again, the frauds and violence which have latterly attended this trade have created serious objections to Chinese emigration. The attention of Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China has, however, been drawn to the whole subject, and I should be very glad if it were found practicable to give the colony the benefit, under proper conditions, of Chinese industry.

I have, &c.

Governor Keate, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 49.

SIR, Emigration Office, May 28, 1857.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 15th instant, enclosing a Despatch from the Governor of Trinidad, with returns of the arrivals of the Coolie ships "Adelaide," "Eveline," and "Sir Geo. Seymour," and a report from the Committee of Immigration.

2. The total numbers embarked in these three ships, the deaths which occurred, and the number landed in Trinidad, were as follows:—

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.	Total.
Number embarked - - -	682	233	51	30	49	1,045
Mortality - - - -	50	35	9	11	28	133
Number landed - - -	632	198	42	19	21	902

The mortality on the three ships was, therefore, at the rate of 12·6 per cent. In the "Eveline," however, it was far the greatest. In that ship the number embarked was:—

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.	Total.
Number embarked - - -	231	96	20	17	23	387
Mortality - - - -	33	18	4	7	10	72
Number landed - -	198	78	16	10	13	315

3. It is stated that this mortality began in the Hooghley, and was owing to the state in which the emigrants were embarked, that no blame is due to the surgeons or officers, and that the former states that he was allowed no veto on the selection of the emigrants. We have no doubt that the cause of the mortality is truly conjectured, but on this subject we do not feel that we can add anything to what we have already reported with regard to the "Roman Emperor" and "Sir R. Seppings" proceeding to British Guiana. It is due, however, to Mr. Caird to add that the surgeon who states that he had no veto on the selection of the emigrants has signed a certificate (forwarded to us in original) that he had carefully and individually examined them, and "that they were in a good state of health, "free from disease, and physically fit to undertake the contemplated voyage."

4. We shall of course forward copies of the reports to Mr. Caird.

5. The Immigration Committee of Council observe that while at the date of their report 1,693 immigrants have arrived in British Guiana, only two ships with 597 immigrants on board had arrived at Trinidad; they point out that this disproportion creates much dissatisfaction, and that even should the proper proportion be ultimately made up, "it "will still remain to be explained why vessels have been despatched to Demerara at so "much earlier a period than those sent to Trinidad."

6. The Committee urge the necessity of a large immigration this year, and they pray that the introduction of Chinese may be resumed.

7. We have the honour to state that the evil of which the Committee of Council complain is owing to the fact that while the information furnished by the Government of British Guiana enabled us to receive from the Secretary of State, on the 31st of March, the instructions necessary for commencing our operations, the wishes of the colonists of Trinidad did not reach us till the 25th of June, more than two months after we had taken up the first ship of the season for British Guiana. The inequality which necessarily resulted from this circumstance was somewhat heightened by the fact that all the emigrants whom the Madras agent could collect were required for the early ships chartered for British Guiana, and that he was consequently unable to fill the "Minerva," the first ship which was or could have been engaged by us for Trinidad.

8. The colony of Trinidad may possibly suffer a similar inconvenience this year from a similar cause, as the funds in our hands are exhausted, and we are not aware that any statement has reached Mr. Labouchere respecting the amount which is available for the immigration of the year. We have, indeed, obtained permission to take up two ships for

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Trinidad, and it is for Mr. Labouchere's consideration whether the state of the Trinidad finances, taken in connexion with the wish for a large immigration which is expressed by the Committee of Council, would justify the issue of instructions to the agents in India to despatch emigrants as far as possible, in the proportion of two ships to Trinidad for every three sent to British Guiana.

9. The proposal to introduce Chinese will we presume receive the same answer which has been given to other sugar-producing colonies.

We have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 50.

No. 50.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor KEATE.

(No. 63.)

SIR, Downing Street, July 31, 1857.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 8th May last, No. 35,* I transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, with copy of a Despatch from the Government of India, from which you will find that the Governor-General and Council have signified their assent to the proposed plan of emigration from Bombay to British Guiana, to be conducted by private parties. I also transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Emigration Commissioners on the subject.

* Page 293.

Page 135. 7th July 1857.

Page 137. 28th July 1857.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Keate,
&c. &c.

No. 51.

No. 51.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor KEATE.

(No. 71.)

SIR, Downing Street, August 15, 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 5th June, No. 41,† requesting, in compliance with the wishes of the Council of Trinidad, that 5,000 Coolie immigrants may be sent to that island during the coming season, and stating the manner in which it is proposed that the expense for their introduction should be provided for.

† Page 337.

I have to acquaint you in reply that as 3,000 immigrants for British Guiana and one ship for St. Lucia have already been ordered, and one ship for Grenada was authorized, it is not at all probable that the agents in India would be enabled to despatch an additional 5,000. I have therefore directed the Land and Emigration Commissioners to instruct the agents to send 3,000 Coolies only. At the same time should the Council, nevertheless, pass an Ordinance for raising the requisite funds, the agents should be further instructed to send the additional 2,000 to Trinidad, should they be enabled to do so after satisfying the requirements of the other colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Keate,
&c. &c.

Despatches from Governor Sir Charles Elliot and Governor Keate.

No. 1.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Elliot to the Duke of Newcastle.

(No. 25.) Trinidad, April 8, 1854.
(Received May 1, 1854.)

My Lord Duke, (Answered, No. 4, June 26, 1854, page 272.)

I have had the honour to receive your Grace's Despatch, No. 10, forwarding the draft of an Immigration Ordinance.

It will be perceived in the accompanying enclosure from the Attorney-General, which will, I am sure, engage your Grace's careful attention, that the Council was to have entered next Tuesday into the consideration of the Ordinance he had prepared after having had the advantage of perusing the Despatch to the Lieut.-Governor of British Guiana, of which your Grace has since forwarded an extract. It was published in the public newspapers, and copied into our own.

Enclosure.

Under present circumstances the Council will of course decline to proceed in the matter till I have had the honour to receive your Grace's views on the main principles of the Ordinance which it had been proposed to take up on the 11th instant. I can only hope that those impressions may be favourable, for it is clear to me, in the financial situation of this colony, that sources of general revenue cannot be strained to bear any larger share of the expense of immigration, neither are the employers of the imported labour at all in a condition to sustain a heavier proportion of that charge.

The circumstance noticed in the Attorney-General's letter that a body of 400 recently returned Coolies to India carried back with them 45,000 dollars certainly shows that their wages are remunerative, and that they may, without pressure, contribute towards the expense of their return passage. They are, it is true, a singularly frugal people; but with every allowance of that kind, I suppose there can be few instances of better success in the old settled regions of the East amongst an equal number of rural labourers in an equal space of time.

Throughout the greater part of Asia, at all events, where the taxation is chiefly territorial, and falls from force of circumstances mainly upon the actual cultivator, it cannot often happen that they are able to make such considerable savings.

It seems to me to be a satisfactory circumstance in Trinidad that the number of Coolies working on their own account and paying their "monthly duty" with punctuality is on the increase. In my view, any system that encourages the disposition to make savings out of their own unindentured labour is good for them, and I do not find there is reason to believe that the monthly charge of 5*s*. presses upon them.

I request your Grace's careful and favourable consideration of the principles of the Immigration Ordinance now submitted, for the subject is one of great importance to this colony, at a very critical moment of its financial and industrial struggles; the successful issue as regards the first, depending entirely on the hope of maintaining the latter.

With this and the next two or three years passed over without unforeseen disaster, and without additional stress on the sugar cultivation, which is the main resource of the colony, I should consider that its steady onward progress may be relied upon; but we are not in a situation to bear the least enhancement of the costs of production of our staple exports.

I have, &c.

The Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. (Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

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Enclosure in No. 1.

Attorney-General's Office, April 8, 1854.

SIR,

Encl. in No. 1:

IN obedience to your Excellency's commands, I have perused the draft of the Immigration Ordinance, and the Despatch from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, covering a copy of a portion of his Despatch to the Governor of British Guiana, on the 16th January 1854.

The subject is so important, and it is so desirable that any Ordinance to be passed in this colony should be passed with a reasonable probability of its meeting the approval of the Colonial Office, that I venture to beg your Excellency to consider whether it would not be advisable to forward at once to His Grace a copy of the Ordinance on the subject of immigration, which stands for a second reading of the Council on Tuesday next. That Ordinance had been prepared by me with the assistance of the agent-general of immigrants, and of Messrs. Rennie and Hume, the leading unofficial members of the Council, and who are practically well acquainted with the subject. To the draft sent out from the Colonial Office there appear to me some strong objections.

The first is, that it throws too great a portion of the expense of immigration on the general funds of the colony. It imposes on the employer the payment as fees of only 2*l.* for the first, and 1*l.* for each of the four succeeding years of industrial residence It is not necessary here to take into calculation the possible addition to be obtained from the immigrant commuting the last two years of industrial residence for a money payment.

The resolution adopted by the Council of the colony on the 6th day of October 1853, proposed to throw one-half of the expense on the employers of immigrants, and the other half on the revenue of the colony, and the income from the duty on rum was appropriated to this purpose.

The expense of each immigrant may be taken for his passage to the colony, including charges in India, and the proportion of the cost of the Immigration Department in this colony, at 15*l.*; the cost of the return passage at 12*l.*; allowing, however, that in consequence of the prolonged residence of ten years there may be a diminution of one-sixth in the return passages; this last charge may be taken at 10*l.*, making 25*l.* in the whole. Of this amount, the draft of the Ordinance transmitted to your Excellency throws on the employers only 6*l.*, the remaining 19*l.* must therefore fall on the colony. The particular revenue appropriated to the purpose, after meeting the interest and sinking fund of our loans specially charged upon it, will not be sufficient for the purpose.

The Ordinance now before the Council proposes to throw on the employer 1*l.* for the first year, when the immigrant's services are of less value, and 2*l.* for each of the ensuing four years, or 9*l.* in all.

The Despatch of His Grace to the Governor of British Guiana had led me to hope that 35 dollars, or 7*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, of the cost of the return passage would have been thrown on the immigrant. The remaining charge of 8*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* would have been met from the duty on rum. If this contribution by the immigrant be not insisted on, I very greatly fear that the employers in the colony will not, with the assistance of the revenue from rum, be able to bear the whole charge of immigration. It is to be remembered that whatever the planter pays, he pays solely for the pre-emption of the immigrant's services. He does not, in fact, recoupe any part of the wages. It is not for me to argue against His Grace's opinion, as it is with him to decide; yet I may suggest that the principle of a contribution by the immigrant to the expense of his return passage, if just in Mauritius is just elsewhere; and the proposal that he shall be at liberty to work for himself only on condition of paying 2*l.* 10*s.* for each of the last two years of his industrial residence, supposes that this contribution to the expense of his removal to this colony will leave a fair surplus on his earnings beyond his maintenance. The last two bodies of return immigrants, in number 400, took away with them as the surplus of their earnings 45,000 dollars. My belief is, that the industrious immigrant is himself a great gainer by his being brought into this colony; that it is a question with him of contract what is a fair contribution by him for a passage to and from a place where he can earn far higher wages than in his own country. Should a direct contribution from the immigrant be objected to, the same result might be obtained by extending the industrial residence from five to eight years, and by thus throwing on the particular employer a further contribution of 6*l.* for the three additional years.

2nd. The proposed draft omits altogether prepayment by stamps, which is, I am satisfied, essential in this colony at least to the sure collection of the duties payable by employers. For this benefit the gentlemen to whom I have referred consented to give up what they consider the advantages of an indenture for three years. In my own opinion, contracts for more than one year are in themselves highly unwise, even for the employer.

3rdly. The proposed draft compels the immigrant during the first three years to work under indenture. Undoubtedly, as a general rule, it is better that the immigrant should be under indenture; but I would not make this compulsory. It will, of course, be an improvement to substitute a prepayment of a sum for the whole year, instead of breaking up the payment into twelve monthly instalments.

Your Excellency may, I hope, be able to obtain an early decision from His Grace on these points, should you think them worthy of being brought under his notice.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

(Signed) CHARLES W. WARNER, Attorney-General.

DRAFT ORDINANCE.

To amend and consolidate the Laws with regard to the Encouragement of Immigration and the Promotion of the Industry of Immigrants.

WHEREAS divers Ordinances have been passed from time to time for the encouragement of immigration and the promotion of the industry of such immigrants; and whereas it is expedient that the provisions of the said Ordinances should be amended and consolidated into one Ordinance: Be it enacted by His Excellency the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, that the several Ordinances mentioned in the Schedule A. to this Ordinance shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

II. Provided always and be it enacted, That all entries heretofore made in the general register of immigrants by the agent-general of immigrants shall be valid, and all engagements to labour, assignments of services and certificates heretofore made and granted, and all matters and things done under or by virtue of any or either of the said Ordinances, shall be and continue in force in the same manner as if this Ordinance had not been passed.

III. And be it enacted, That throughout this Ordinance the words and expressions herein-after mentioned shall have and bear the following meanings, that is to say, the word "immigrant" shall include all captured Africans already introduced, or who may be hereafter introduced, into this colony, and all immigrants already introduced, or who may be hereafter introduced at the public expense into this colony; the words "new immi- "grant" shall include all immigrants who shall not have completed an industrial residence within this colony, or who shall be under contract for a further term of industrial residence; the words, "old immigrant" shall include all immigrants not being new immigrants; the words "industrial residence" shall be taken to mean the actual residence within the colony of all such captured Africans and of all other immigrants during the term of five years; the word "planter" shall include the owner or tenant in possession or other person having the charge or management of any sugar, cocoa, coffee, or cotton plantation; the word "employer" shall include the owner and manager or other person having the direction of and the chief authority upon any such plantation on which any immigrant shall be employed; and every word importing the singular number only shall extend and be applied to several persons or things as well as one person or thing; and every word importing the masculine gender shall extend and be applied to females as well as males.

IV. And be it enacted, That every immigrant shall, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, be presumed to be a new immigrant.

V. And be it enacted, That the agent-general of immigrants shall continue to keep the register called "the general register of immigrants," and shall insert therein the names of all immigrants who shall hereafter be introduced into this colony under the name of the particular vessel by which such immigrant shall have arrived, and shall number each of such immigrants by a particular number, commencing with the last number already borne on such register, and proceeding by regular numerical progression, and shall distinguish therein under different heads the number, name, age, and sex of every such immigrant, and the time when, and the place from which, such immigrant shall have arrived, together with the cost of the passage of such immigrant; and also, whether such immigrant is or is not entitled to a return passage, and the time when the industrial residence of such immigrant will expire.

VI. And be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any immigrant whose name shall appear in such register to depart from the colony without a licence in writing signed by the agent-general of immigrants, and every master or other person in charge of any vessel who shall knowingly receive or harbour on board of such vessel with the intention of carrying out of this colony any immigrant whose name shall appear in such register and who shall not have obtained such licence, shall on conviction thereof before any two justices of the peace forfeit and pay to Her Majesty the Queen the sum of twenty pounds for each and every such immigrant whom he shall have so received or harboured with such intention as aforesaid.

VII. And be it enacted, That every immigrant introduced into this colony at any time subsequent to the first day of January of this present year, under an agreement reserving to him the right to a return passage, shall be entitled to such return passage on the completion of a residence within this colony of five years after the completion of and in addition to his industrial residence, and on the payment by such immigrant into the colonial treasury of such sum, not exceeding the sum of seven pounds ten shillings sterling, as the Governor may from time to time by proclamation direct and appoint as a contribution by such immigrant towards the expense of such return passage; and every immigrant introduced into this colony at any time before the first day of January of this present year, under an agreement reserving to him the right to a return passage, shall be entitled to such return passage at the public expense on the completion of his term of industrial residence only, and to every immigrant entitled to such return passage a licence in writing signed by the agent-general of immigrants shall be delivered by such agent free of charge on the application of such immigrant.

VIII. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any immigrant, although not entitled to a return passage at the public expense, to leave this colony at his own expense on the licence of the agent-general of immigrants, and such licence shall be granted on the payment by such immigrant to the colonial treasurer of the sum of five shillings for

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every calendar month that may be wanting to complete the industrial residence of such immigrant, and of the amount if any of the monthly duties payable by such immigrant since the determination of his last written engagement to labour.

IX. Provided always and be it enacted, That where any immigrant shall be desirous to commute his right to a free passage for the value in land of the cost of such passage, and the Governor shall see fit to grant to such immigrant out of the Crown lands of the colony a piece or parcel of land equal in value at the upset price of Crown lands to the cost of such return passage, such immigrant shall have the same in lieu of his right to a free passage.

X. Provided also and be it enacted, That where any immigrant who may have been introduced into this colony at any time before the first day of January of this present year, under an agreement entitling him to a return passage shall have completed his term of industrial residence within this colony, it shall be lawful for the Governor if he shall see fit from year to year, on such immigrant entering into a contract for a further industrial residence of one year, to make order for the payment out of the colonial treasury to such immigrant by way of bounty of the sum of two pounds for each year; and every such contract may be according to the form in the Schedule B. to this Ordinance.

XI. And be it enacted, That no portion of the time during which any immigrant shall have resided in this colony shall be deemed to form part of his term of industrial residence, except the portion or portions during which he shall have been under a written engagement to labour with some planter, or for which he shall have paid the monthly duty herein-after mentioned.

XII. And be it enacted, That no agreement shall be construed to be an engagement to labour within the meaning of this Ordinance unless such agreement shall be on paper duly stamped, and shall be made with some planter for labour to be performed on some particular plantation to be named in such agreement, and shall be expressed to be for the term of one year from the day of the date of such agreement, and unless the same shall be signed or acknowledged by the parties thereto before the agent-general of immigrants or some stipendiary or other justice of the peace or warden.

XIII. And be it enacted, That the Governor shall from time to time make order for providing proper and sufficient dies or other implements for expressing and denoting the duties payable on such engagements to labour, and such dies or other implements shall be kept in the custody of the Colonial Secretary, who shall from time to time on the warrant of the Governor issue to the Colonial Treasurer such number of such engagements to labour duly stamped as shall be mentioned in such warrant, and the Colonial Treasurer shall as often as required so to do by the Governor account for such forms so issued to him.

XIV. And be it enacted, That the Colonial Treasurer shall number every such stamped engagement so issued to him with a particular number, beginning with the number one, and proceeding by regular numerical progression, and shall subscribe his name immediately below the stamp on every such engagement, and shall issue such stamped engagements so numbered and subscribed to such persons as may from time to time require the same on payment to him of the amounts or values denoted by the stamps on such engagements; and the Colonial Treasurer shall in proper books to be provided at the public expense enter the particulars of all such stamped engagements issued to him by the Colonial Secretary, and of all such stamped engagements so issued by the Colonial Treasurer, and the names of the persons to whom the same shall have been issued, and the monies received by him in respect of the same.

XV. And be it enacted, That on all such engagements to labour there shall be paid to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, the following rates of duty, viz.—

On the first or original engagement to labour entered into by any immigrant on his arrival in this colony, the sum of twenty shillings.

On every renewed engagement to labour on the same plantation in respect whereof such immigrant shall have been under an engagement to labour during the next preceding year, the sum of forty shillings; and,

On every engagement to labour on any plantation being a different plantation from the plantation in respect whereof such immigrants shall have been under an engagement to labour during the next preceding year, the sum of sixty shillings.

XVI. And be it enacted, That the agent-general of immigrants, stipendiary or other justice or warden, before whom such agreement to labour shall be signed or acknowledged, shall grant a certificate thereof according to the Form in the Schedule C. to this Ordinance to the immigrant entering into such agreement.

XVII. And be it enacted, That if any person shall enter into any written agreement with any new immigrant for the labour of such immigrant, and such agreement shall not be duly stamped with the stamp denoting the proper duty payable to Her Majesty upon such agreement, such person shall on conviction thereof forfeit and pay to Her Majesty the sum of twenty pounds.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That every such written agreement unless it be thereby otherwise expressly provided, shall operate as an engagement by the immigrant entering into the same to work for his employer for nine hours of each day, Sundays, Good Friday, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day only excepted.

XIX. And be it enacted, That every immigrant who may have entered into or may hereafter enter into an agreement to labour on any plantation shall be bound to perform such labour on such plantation, notwithstanding that the employer with whom he shall

have entered into such engagement may die, or that such plantation shall be sold, demised, descend, or come to some other person.

XX. And be it enacted, That every person who shall harbour or employ any immigrant being at the time under a written agreement for labour then subsisting and in force, shall on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace, on the complaint of the person in possession or having the charge of the plantation in respect whereof the labour of such immigrant may be performable, forfeit and pay to Her Majesty the sum of five pounds sterling, and to the person entitled to the labour of such immigrant under such written agreement the sum of eight shillings for each day during which such immigrant shall be so harboured or employed.

XXI. And be it enacted, That every employer to whom any immigrant shall be under a written agreement to labour shall provide at the cost of such employer proper and sufficient medicine, medical attendance, and food for such immigrant when ill; but the right of such immigrant to wages shall cease during the continuance of his illness and inability to work.

XXII. And be it enacted, That every employer who shall fail to provide proper and sufficient medicine, medical attendance, or food for any immigrant when ill, or shall fail to make regular payment of the wages of such immigrant, or shall ill-treat or neglect such immigrant shall, on conviction thereof before any two justices, forfeit such sum not less than twenty shillings nor more than twenty pounds as to such justices shall seem fit; and in any such case it shall be lawful for the Governor to make order for the transfer of the services of all immigrants in the employment of such employer for the residue then unexpired of their engagements to labour to some other employer without any duty, and in case any such immigrant whose services may be so transferred on the expiration of the term for the residue of which his services may be so transferred shall enter into an engagement to labour with the employer to whom his services shall have been so transferred, the duty payable to Her Majesty on such engagement shall be the sum of forty shillings, anything therein contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

XXIII. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the employer of any new immigrant being under a written engagement to labour to deduct from the wages of such immigrant the sum of three pence for every week after the expiration of the first year after the arrival of such immigrant in this colony.

XXIV. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the agent-general of immigrants by order of the Governor on the request of the employer of any immigrant, and on the consent of such immigrant, to make order for the transfer of the services of such immigrant from the plantation in respect of which he shall be under an engagement to labour to any other plantation belonging to or under the control or charge of the same employer, and a note of such transfer shall be endorsed on the engagement to labour by the agent-general of immigrants, and thereupon such immigrant shall be bound to labour on the plantation to which his labour shall be so transferred in the same manner as if such plantation had been named in such engagement to labour.

XXV. And be it enacted, That every new immigrant being under a written agreement to labour, who shall absent himself from the plantation in respect whereof he shall be under such agreement without the permission in writing of the person having the charge of such plantation or some lawful excuse shall, on conviction thereof before any two justices of the peace on the complaint of the employer of such immigrant, be imprisoned with hard labour in the Royal gaol for such term not exceeding fourteen days, and in case of any subsequent conviction for the like offence for such term not exceeding thirty days, as to such justices shall seem fit, such term to be computed from the day on which such immigrant shall be received within the gaol, and the justices shall in such conviction and in the commitment under such conviction specify the time during which such immigrant shall have so absented himself; and such time as well as the time which shall elapse from the day of such conviction to the day of the completion of his imprisonment under such conviction shall not be allowed as part of the industrial residence of such immigrant.

XXVI. And be it enacted, That where any immigrant shall be imprisoned for any offence under the sentence of any Court or the order or warrant of any justice or justices the time during which he shall be so imprisoned shall not be allowed as part of his industrial residence, and in every case of such imprisonment where such immigrant shall be under a written agreement to labour the agent-general of immigrants shall on the request of the employer endorse on the agreement to labour a note of the time during which such immigrant shall have been absent from the plantation in respect whereof he shall be under such agreement; and such immigrant shall on the expiration of the term mentioned in such agreement be bound to work for his employer for an additional time equal to the time so endorsed on such agreement, and such additional time shall be taken as forming part of the time mentioned in such agreement.

XXVII. And be it enacted, That every employer within seven days after any immigrant shall have entered into any written engagement for labour with such employer shall make a return in duplicate to the warden of the ward wherein the plantation mentioned in such engagement shall be situate, specifying the name and number of such immigrant and the date of such engagement; and every person having in his employ any immigrant whether under a written agreement or otherwise, shall on or before the seventh day of each of the months of January, April, July, and October in each year make out and transmit to the warden of the ward where such immigrant shall be employed a return in duplicate according to the form in the Schedule D. to this ordinance, of all

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immigrants employed by him during the whole or any part of the preceding three months ending on the last day of the month next preceding the day of making such return, and every such warden shall forthwith transmit one of such returns to the agent-general of immigrants; and every such employer who shall fail to make such return or shall make any return which shall in any particular be false within his knowledge, and every warden who shall fail to transmit one of the returns so made to him to the agent-general of immigrants, shall on conviction thereof before any two justices of the peace, forfeit and pay to Her Majesty the sum of ten pounds.

XXVIII. And be it enacted, That every new immigrant not being under a written agreement to labour shall pay to Her Majesty for the use of the colony a duty of five shillings for each calendar month of such industrial residence during which he shall not be under such agreement, such duty to be paid in advance on the first day of each month, unless such day shall be a Sunday, and in that case on the day following, to the warden of the ward, or if there be no warden to the stipendiary justice of the district where such immigrant may reside.

XXIX. And be it enacted, That every new immigrant not being under an agreement to labour or whose agreement to labour shall hereafter be determined shall, within ten days after the passing of this ordinance or the determination of such agreement to labour, declare his name and distinguishing number and the place of his residence to the warden of the ward, or if there be no warden, then to the stipendiary justice of the district where he shall reside for the purpose of having the same registered; and every new immigrant afterwards removing to any other ward or town shall, in like manner, within five days after such removal, make a like declaration to the warden of the ward, or if there be no warden to the stipendiary justice of the district to which he shall so remove; and every new immigrant who shall fail or neglect to make any such declaration as herein-before required shall, on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace, be imprisoned, with hard labour, for such term, not exceeding fourteen days, as to such justice shall seem fit.

XXX. And be it enacted, That every warden of a ward shall on or before the third day of each month transmit to the stipendiary justice of the district wherein such ward shall be situate a list of all immigrants resident within such ward and not being under written agreements to labour; and every stipendiary justice shall within the first seven days of each calendar month issue his warrant according to the form in the Schedule E. to this ordinance for the recovery of all monthly duties payable under this ordinance, and which at the time of the issuing of such warrant may remain unpaid, specifying in such warrant or in some schedule to be attached thereto, the names and distinguishing numbers of the immigrants liable to pay the same, and the amounts due by each of such immigrants respectively and the months for which the same shall be due; and it shall be lawful for the superintendent of immigrants or any police constable having the execution of such warrant to apprehend any such immigrant, and for that purpose at any time in the day to enter into and upon any house, place, or lands where any such immigrant may be or may reasonably be suspected to be; and if any such immigrant being a new immigrant shall not immediately produce the receipt or receipts for the monthly duty or duties specified in such warrant, together with the further sum of sixpence for every five shillings of such monthly duty, such immigrant shall be forthwith committed by such constable to prison, there to be imprisoned, with hard labour, for the term of fourteen days for every sum of five shillings of such monthly duty mentioned in such warrant as payable by such immigrant, unless the amount of such monthly duty or duties and such penalty or penalties be sooner paid; and the gaoler or other person under whose charge such immigrant shall be so imprisoned shall grant his certificate according to the form in the Schedule F. to this ordinance of the fact of such monthly duty or duties having been so satisfied by such imprisonment.

XXXI. Provided always and be it enacted, That no monthly duty shall be payable by or in respect of any such immigrant so long as he shall be under the age of fourteen years; but no part of the time during which such immigrant shall have resided in this colony previous to his attaining the age of fourteen years shall be taken as forming part of his industrial residence.

XXXII. And be it enacted, That to every immigrant on the payment of such monthly duty there shall be delivered by the stipendiary justice, warden, or constable to whom such duty shall be paid, a receipt in writing according to the form in the Schedule G. to this ordinance, which receipt shall be evidence, liable however to be rebutted, of the payment by such immigrant of all monthly duties up to the end of the month for which such receipt shall be expressed to be given.

XXXIII. And be it enacted, That every person who shall receive any new immigrant into his employment except under a written agreement to labour, shall by so doing make himself responsible for the payment to Her Majesty of the amount of all monthly duties which may be then due or which may during the continuance of such employment become due by such immigrant.

XXXIV. And be it enacted, That where any immigrant shall have completed three years of the term of his industrial residence it shall be lawful for the agent-general of immigrants on the payment by such immigrant into the Colonial Treasury of the sum of five shillings for every calendar month still unexpired of such industrial residence, and of the amount of all monthly duties, if any, payable by such immigrant for any time elapsed since the determination of his last written engagement to labour to make order

for the discharge of such immigrant from the residue of his industrial residence, and thereupon such immigrant shall be discharged from the payment of all further monthly duties.

XXXV. And be it enacted, That the keeper of the Royal gaol shall on or before the third day of each month make out and deliver to the agent-general of immigrants a return of all immigrants committed to or discharged from the Royal gaol during the preceding calendar month, showing the distinguishing number, name, and sex of each such immigrant, the authority by which and the term for which each such immigrant if committed shall be so committed, and the particular day of such commitment or discharge.

XXXVI. And be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful to sue out a writ of Capias ad satisfaciendum or any execution against the person of any new immigrant or any judgment to be recovered in any action of contract against such immigrant in the Supreme Civil Court or in the Court of Complaints or before the Commissioner of the Petty Civil Court or any stipendiary justice of the peace; and if any such new immigrant shall be arrested or committed to gaol on any writ of Capias ad satisfaciendum or execution against the person of such new immigrant on any such judgment, it shall be lawful for any judge of the Supreme Civil Court or the commissioner or stipendiary justice before whom such judgment shall have been recovered, on the production of a certificate under the hand of the agent-general of immigrants, or on its being otherwise made to appear to him that such immigrant is a new immigrant, to make order in a summary manner without any notice to the person at whose suit such writ or execution shall be sued out for the immediate discharge of such immigrant, and thereupon such immigrant shall be forthwith discharged from custody under such writ or execution.

XXXVII. And be it enacted, That every immigrant, who shall hereafter complete his industrial residence, on making the same appear to the satisfaction of the agent-general of immigrants, or the warden of the ward, or if there be no such warden of the stipendiary justice of the district, where such immigrant shall reside, shall be entitled to a certificate to be called a certificate of industrial residence, under the hand of the agent-general of immigrants, which certificate shall be according to the Form H. in the Schedule to this ordinance annexed, and shall be delivered free from any charge to such immigrant.

XXXVIII. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Governor, on its being certified to him by the agent-general of immigrants or the warden of the ward or any justice of the district, where such immigrant shall reside, that any immigrant from sickness, accident, or other cause is incapable to labour, by writing under his hand to grant to such immigrant an exemption for the whole or a portion of the term of his industrial residence to be specified in such exemption from the payment of such monthly duty, and also a free return passage where such immigrant shall have been introduced into this colony under an agreement reserving to him the right to a return passage, and thereupon the agent-general of immigrants shall deliver to the immigrant so exempted a certificate of exemption, which certificate shall be according to the Form H. in the Schedule to this ordinance annexed.

XXXIX. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any police constable to stop any immigrant whom he shall find on any public street, highway, or place, and also for the owner or occupier or any servant of the owner or occupier of any land or house to stop any immigrant found upon or about such house or land, and if such immigrant shall fail when required to produce his certificate of industrial residence or his certificate of engagement or a certificate of exemption or the receipt for the last monthly duty payable by such immigrant, to take such immigrant forthwith before some neighbouring justice of the peace, who shall forthwith inquire into the case, and unless such immigrant shall make it appear that he is not liable to the payment of such monthly duty, or that he is not indebted in respect of the same, or that he has already undergone imprisonment for non-payment of the same, or shall make immediate payment of the amount due by him in respect of such monthly duty, such justice shall make order for the immediate committal of such immigrant to imprisonment with hard labour for the term of fourteen days for every sum of five shillings of such monthly duty.

XL. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any employer of any new immigrant, or any servant of such employer, or any constable to apprehend, without warrant, such immigrant, being under an engagement to labour, who on any day on which he shall be bound to labour shall be found at a distance of more than two miles from the estate on which he shall have been engaged to labour, without a written ticket of leave signed by such employer or his servant, and to cause such immigrant to be taken back to such estate.

XLI. And be it enacted, That where any question shall arise whether any new immigrant is under an engagement to labour or not the burthen of proof shall be on such immigrant, and every immigrant shall be presumed to be a new immigrant, and liable to the payment of such monthly duty, unless such immigrant shall produce a certificate of his being under an engagement of labour, or a certificate of industrial residence, or a certificate of exemption.

XLII. And be it enacted, That any immigrant who, being a new immigrant, shall fraudulently pretend to be an old immigrant, or who shall wilfully use as his own any certificate of industrial residence or exemption, or any receipt for monthly duty, which shall have been granted to any other immigrant, or who shall lend his certificate of residence or of exemption or his receipt to any other immigrant; and any immigrant or other

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person who shall wilfully counterfeit or alter any such certificate or receipt shall, on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace, be imprisoned with hard labour for such term, not exceeding two calendar months, as to the convicting justice shall seem fit.

XLIII. And be it enacted, That all informations for the recovery of all penalties and other monies payable under this ordinance shall be commenced within twelve calendar months from the time when such monies shall have become due, or the offence in respect whereof such penalties shall be payable shall have been committed, and not otherwise, and the evidence of the party aggrieved or entitled to any such monies or penalty or any part of the same shall be admissible in support of any such information.

XLIV. And be it enacted, That all monthly duties, penalties, and other monies payable or for which any person shall make himself responsible to Her Majesty, may be recovered on a complaint to be made by any police constable in the name of the agent-general of immigrants.

XLV. And be it enacted, That all wages which shall be payable to any immigrant may be sued for and recovered in the manner provided by a certain ordinance entitled "An Ordinance for regulating the relative Rights and Duties of Masters and Servants."

XLVI. And be it enacted, That no fees or costs shall be payable on any information or other proceeding for the recovery of any penalty or monies payable under this ordinance unless the justice or justices before whom such information shall be heard shall by their or his order on such information otherwise direct.

XLVII. And for facilitating the proof of the execution of agreements to labour within the meaning of this ordinance, be it enacted, That proof of the handwriting of the agent-general of immigrants, stipendiary or other justice of the peace or warden, subscribed to any such agreement, shall be sufficient evidence of the execution of such agreement by the parties to the same without further proof of the handwriting of such parties or either of them.

XLVIII. And be it enacted, That nothing herein contained shall be taken to extend or apply to any Chinese labourer already introduced or who may hereafter be introduced into this colony at the public expense.

Passed in Council this day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

SCHEDULE A.

Ordinance No. 5 for 1850.—Entitled "An Ordinance for the Encouragement of Immigration and the Promotion of the Industry of Immigrants," and passed in Council on the 9th day of April in the year of our Lord 1850.

Ordinance No. 10 for 1850.—Entitled "An Ordinance for the Promotion of the Industry of captured Africans introduced into this Colony," and passed in Council on the 1st day of July in the year of our Lord 1850.

Ordinance No. 11 for 1851.—Entitled "An Ordinance for encouraging Immigrants to enter into Contracts for a further Term of Industrial Residence within this Colony," and passed in Council on the 23rd day of May in the year of our Lord 1850.

Ordinance No. 11 for 1852.—Entitled "An Ordinance for the further Encouragement of Immigrants to enter into Contracts for further Terms of Industrial Residence," and passed in Council on the 10th day of September in the year of our Lord 1852.

Ordinance No. 12 for 1852.—Entitled "An Ordinance for the better Regulation of Immigrants," and passed in Council on the 10th day of September in the year of our Lord 1852.

SCHEDULE B.

an immigrant into this colony from by the vessel called which arrived in this colony on the day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and do hereby acknowledge to have received from the Colonial Treasurer, by order of his Excellency the Governor, the sum of as bounty, and in consideration thereof do hereby consent and agree to commence a new term of industrial residence of one year within this colony, the said term to be computed from the day of and during the said term of to conform to and be bound by all the provisions of the ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Laws with regard to the Encouragement of Immigration and the Promotion of the Industry of Immigrants," reserving to myself my right to a return passage.

Dated this day of at

Signed in the presence of

SCHEDULE C.

I certify that an immigrant, has this day signed (or acknowledged) before me an engagement to labour on the plantation in the ward of for twelve months from the day of

Dated this day of in the year of our Lord 185 .

SCHEDULE D.

Ward of

Return of A. B. (Owner or Tenant in possession, Manager, or as the case may be) of the Plantation in the ward of of Immigrants during the three calendar months ending on the day of in the year of our Lord 185 .

	Distinguishing Number.	Name.	Sex.	Date of written Engagement or Entry into Service.	Remarks.
Under written Engagements.	Total.				Died on the day of Absent without leave since the day of Left 15th March 1854.
Not under written Engagements.	Total.				

SCHEDULE E.

To A.B., constable.

You are hereby required to demand and receive from the immigrants whose names and numbers are mentioned in the Schedule hereto annexed, the several sums of money therein set opposite to their respective names, being the amount of the monthly duties payable by them respectively, and of the penalty or sum of sixpence for each sum of five shillings of such monthly duty, and in default of payment you shall commit each of such immigrants making such default to the Royal Gaol, there to be imprisoned with hard labour for the term of fourteen days, for every sum of five shillings of such monthly duty, unless the same be sooner paid.

SCHEDULE TO BE ANNEXED TO WARRANT.

Number.	Name.	Sex.	Months for which Duty due.	Total Amount, including Penalty of Sixpence for every Five Shillings.

C.D., Stipendiary Justice.

SCHEDULE F.

I do hereby certify that the immigrant [here insert the name and distinguishing number of immigrant] has satisfied the monthly duty payable by him for the month of 18 by imprisonment with hard labour.

A B., Gaoler.

SCHEDULE G.

Received from [here insert the name and distinguishing number of immigrant] the sum of five shillings, being the monthly duty for the month of 18 .

A.B., Stipendiary Justice, Warden, or Constable (as the case may be).

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SCHEDULE H.

I certify that the immigrant [here insert his or her name and distinguishing number] has been exempted from the payment of his monthly duty for months from this day of 185 .

A.B., Agent-General of Immigrants.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 27.) Trinidad, April 22, 1854.

MY LORD DUKE, (Received May 18, 1854.)

Enclosure.

I TRANSMIT herewith the Agent-General of Immigrant's return of immigration for the quarter ending the 31st March 1854.

I have, &c.

The Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. (Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

Enclosure in No. 2.

C.

RETURN of the Immigration on Bounty and otherwise, into Trinidad, during the Quarter ended on the 31st March 1854.

Name of Ship.	Registered Tonnage.	Name of Surgeon.	Port of Departure.	Port of Arrival.	Date of Sailing.	Date of Arrival.	No. of Days on Voyage.	Emigrants embarked.					Births on Voyage.		Deaths on Voyage.				Emigrants landed.					State in each Case whether on Bounty or unassisted.	If on Bounty, state in each Case rate in Sterling.	State in each Case the Total Amount in Sterling of Bounties paid.
								Adults.		Children under 14.		Total.	Males.	Females.	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Total.			
								M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
True Briton	685	C.P.M.Brewer	Calcutta	Trinidad	Dec. 23, 1853.	Mar. 20, 1854.	85	291	25	5	4	325	-	-	6	1	-	-	285	24	5	4	318	—	—	£ s. d. —
								13 Infants.							1 Infant.				12 Infants.							
TOTALS	685	—	—	—	—	—	—	291	25	5	4	325	-	-	6	1	-	-	285	24	5	4	318	—	—	£

(Signed) HY. MITCHELL, Government Immigration Agent.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 28.) Trinidad, April 23, 1854.

(Received May 18, 1854.)

MY LORD DUKE, (Answered, No. 1, June 19, 1854, page 271.)

Enclosure.

I HAVE the honour to forward a report by the Agent-General of Immigrants, brought down to the close of the first year's industrial residence of 425 Chinese, imported in the ship "Australia."

Dr. Mitchell ascribes this serious mortality, of nearly one-fifth of these persons, to a malignant type of fever which appears to have prevailed in parts of this colony during the autumn of last year. The causes must have been narrowly local, because it appears from the table annexed to the report that one-half of the whole number of deaths occurred on three or four estates, and on a strength of about eighty immigrants.

The disposition to treat the Chinese kindly has, I am fully persuaded, been universal in this colony; but it is obvious that the absence of interpreters in

emergencies of sickness or of unavoidable misunderstanding with these labourers from the other side of the earth must have been very unequally felt.

No race of Asiatics require good management more than the Chinese. They are not a blindly submissive but a keenly observant and calculating people, and must be dealt with accordingly. With proper management, however, everyone familiar with them will admit that they adapt themselves completely to our modes of performing labour and of adjusting its conditions. With much opportunity of judging of their bodily ability to sustain the stress of this or any other hot climate, and of the necessity of making our purposes intelligible to them, I suggested to the Council shortly after my arrival that it would be desirable to send to Hong Kong for two or three intelligent youths, brought up in our schools, competent to translate such parts of our laws and regulations as I might deem it necessary to communicate to the people from time to time, with a few authoritative words, &c., enjoining obedience, as they are accustomed to in their own country. The expense would not, I think, exceed 350*l.* per annum, and would, of course, be chargeable to the Immigration Fund.

It does not appear, however, that there is at present any general disposition to extend the Chinese immigration, and in that case the expense would of course be superfluous; but if it is to go on, I should hold it to be indispensable.

For my own part I am disposed to prefer the Chinese to the Coolies as immigrants:—

1st. Because they do not desire to return.

2d. They are stronger, more intelligent, and would certainly soon introduce many useful arts and skilful modes of lightening labour—of which the people of these colonies are well-nigh ignorant.

3d. Because they have much less religious or caste prejudice than the Coolies.

Lastly, because I believe they would soon intermarry with the native females, and that their progeny would be a sturdy and intelligent race; neither have the Chinese failed to perform the duties of husbands and parents quite as well, on the whole, as the races with which they have mingled in their migration.

I have, &c.

The Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c.

(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Encl. in No. 3.

SIR, Trinidad, Immigration Office, April 19, 1854.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that the Chinese immigrants per "Australia" terminated the first year of their industrial residence on the 10th ultimo. The number originally distributed was 424; of these 86 have died, as may be seen on reference to the annexed table.

This mortality occurring in so fine a body of men is referable, among other causes, principally to the existence last year of an epidemic fever rapidly fatal under the most skilful treatment, the type aggravated by the total want of any means of communication between the employer and employed. There were other accessories to which I have already drawn attention in previous reports.

Notwithstanding the mortality, the result of this first experiment in Chinese immigration has been satisfactory, and in some cases highly so, as, for instance, on the Broomage, Upper Carsin, St. Marie, and Camden. On the two former estates there were no deaths, and on the whole the employers expressed their conviction that the Chinese labourers were the best they had hitherto tried. That much depends upon the employer is evident from the fact that in certain cases of transfer, hands previously useless from sickness or other causes, became shortly effective.

Out of 19 estates, the assignment fee for the second year remains due on four from accidental causes, but these balances I expect to pay into the Treasury before the end of the current month.

Nearly the same statement applies to the repayment of the Chinese advances, which is in a much more satisfactory state than could have been predicted under the circumstances.

The second year of the Chinese immigrants by the second ship commences on the 1st proximo.

I have, &c.

The Hon. Thomas F. Johnston, Colonial Secretary.

(Signed) HENRY MITCHELL, Agent-General of Immigrants.

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Date.	Estate's Name.	Owner.	Number Assigned.	Number Dead.	Runaway.	Remaining.
1854.						
March 10	Orange Grove - -	Hume, Bernard, & Co.	25	1	—	24
	Williams Ville -	John W. Begg - -	23	9	—	14
	Jordan Hill - -	William Eccles - -	33	10	5	18
	Craignish - -	Colin Campbell - -	23	4	—	19
	Friendship - -	John W. Begg - -	23	6	—	17
	Buen Intento - -	James Taylor - -	16	3	—	13
	Barataria - -	Hume, Bernard, & Co.	24	9	—	15
	Curepa - - -	A. Joyau - - -	16	2	1	13
	Camden - - -	T. Rostant - -	25	1	—	24
	Concord - - -	St. Luce Philip - -	17	4	—	13
	La Romain - -	P. A. Ganteaume -	25	7	3	15
	Lower Caroni - -	Miles and Kington -	41	8	—	33
	Upper Caroni - -	Miles and Kington -	10	—	—	10
	St. John's - -	John W. Begg - .	25	1	—	24
	St. Marie - -	William Rennie -	31	2	—	29
	Broomage - -	James Taylor - -	23	—	—	23
	Garth - - -	William Taylor -	24	15	—	9
	Macoya - - -	R. S. Darling - -	19	4	—	15
			423	86	9	328

Note.—On the subject of the above report I must state, in justice to the colony, that the mortality cannot be considered as fairly chargeable on either the unusual sickliness of the year just terminated, or any particular insalubrity of the estates to which the immigrants were assigned. The two columns appended show the number of Coolies resident during the same period on the same estate, and the number of deaths among them. The small mortality among the Coolies is not due to any immunity from sickness; most of them suffered more or less, and in every variety of form, from the slightest intermittent to yellow fever.

On those estates where the Chinese deaths were most numerous, the people were moved from one situation to another without any beneficial result. Although some allowances may be made for nostalgia and its consequent depression of spirit, it is to be feared that many deaths of parties who to all appearance were doing well in the evening, and died before morning, must be ascribed to opium or similar poisons. In three cases opium was found in the mouths of the dead, and full dose in the second stage of climate fever is almost assuredly fatal. How far the sale of the drug might be restricted, and how far the restriction might be attended with advantage, it were difficult to say, but I have been credibly informed that individuals have purchased as much as 25 dollars' worth at once. As they barely earn on an average more than is sufficient for their support, this sum must have been deducted from the necessary supplies of life.

Name of Estate.	Number of Coolies.	Number of Deaths.
Orange Grove - - - - -	92	1
Williams Ville - - - - -	27	—
Jordan Hill - - - - -	30	—
Craignish - - - - -	9	1
Friendship - - - - -	17	—
Buen Intento - - - - -	—	—
Barataria - - - - -	27	1
Curepe - - - - -	86	—
Camden - - - - -	53	—
Concorde - - - - -	28	—
La Romain - - - - -	20	—
Lower Caroni - - - - -	38	—
Upper Caroni - - - - -	52	—
St. John's - - - - -	15	—
St. Marie - - - - -	21	2
Broomage - - - - -	27	—
Garth - - - - - -	42	—
Macoya - - - - - -	—	—
Total - - -	584	5

TRINIDAD.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 50.) Trinidad, July 5, 1854.

(Received July 31, 1854.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Agent-General of Immigrant's Return of Immigration for the quarter ending the 30th June 1854.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 4.

C.

RETURN of the Immigration on Bounty and otherwise, into Trinidad, during the Quarter ended on the 30th June 1854.

Name of Ship.	Registered Tonnage.	Name of Surgeon.	Port of Departure.	Port of Arrival.	Date of Sailing.	Date of Arrival.	No. of Days on Voyage.	Emigrants embarked.					Births on Voyage.		Deaths on Voyage.				Emigrants landed.					State in each Case, whether on Bounty or unassisted.	If on Bounty, state in each Case rate in Sterling.	State in each Case the Total Amount in Sterling of Bounties paid.
								Adults.		Children under 14.		Total.	Males.	Females.	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Total.			
								M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				£ s. d.
Sussex	960	J. Stephenson	Calcutta	Trinidad	Feb. 3, 1854.	April 24, 1854.	77	322	25	4	3	354	–	–	2	–	–	–	320	25	4	3	352	—	—	14 0 0
TOTALS	960	—	—	—	—	—	—	322	25	4	3	354	–	–	–	–	–	–	320	25	4	3	352	—	—	£14 0 0

(Signed) HY. MITCHELL, Government Immigration Agent.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 58.) Trinidad, August 23, 1854.

(Received, September 18, 1854.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 44, November 4, 1854, page 276.)

WITH reference to your Despatch, No. 6,* dated the 26th of June last, I herewith forward a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 22nd instant, to the effect that 1,000 Coolies, in addition to the number required to make up the requisition for 1854, should be introduced during the year 1855.

* Page 275. Enclosure.

As it would appear from the letter of the Land and Emigration Commissioners, enclosed in your Despatch, that the period for taking up ships in England for the outward voyage has already passed, I would hope that Mr. Caird might be instructed to take up, if possible, the required tonnage in India for the purpose.

I learn from the Agent-General of Immigrants that there has been little or no disposition evinced on the part of the Coolies this year for a return ship, and that if one were now here, he would not be able to procure more than from twenty to thirty at the utmost to go by her, as most of the Coolies whose time has expired have entered into re-engagements for another year's service.

It would be desirable, however, that a return ship should call here early in the ensuing year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart, G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

TRINIDAD.

Encl. in No. 5.

Enclosure in No. 5.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Legislative Council, dated August 22, 1854.

"Resolved that His Excellency the Governor be requested to make application to the "Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies that 1,000 Coolie labourers "from Calcutta be sent to this colony in the year 1855, in addition to the number required "to make up the requisition for the year 1854."—Carried.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 67.) Trinidad, September 21, 1854.
(Received, October 19, 1854.)
(Answered, No. 58, December 12, 1854, page 278.)

SIR,

* Page 267. Enclosure.

REFERRING to your Despatch, No. 28,* dated the 12th June last, and its enclosures, I have the honour to transmit a letter from the Agent-General of Immigrants which contains the information required by the Land and Emigration Commissioners in respect to the amount of passage money paid for their children by certain Coolies returning to India in the ships "Shand" and "Bucephalus" in the autumn of the year 1853.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 6.

Enclosure in No. 6.

SIR, Trinidad, Immigration Office, August 24, 1854.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that the children whose passage to Calcutta from this port was defrayed by their parents in the month of August last year, were named and shipped as follows:—

Per "Bucephalus."

No.	Mother's Name.	Name.	Mother's No.	Ship.	Amount.
1	Budun	Joosanee	196	Futtle Rozack	36 60
2	Umreth	Rutoree	5208	Agincorat	73 26
	"	Buthnee	"	"	
3	Jaukoree	Gomee	5207	"	36 60

Per "Shand."

4	Munnoo	Gunsoo	4316	Bangalore	73 20
	"	Jugun	"	"	
5	Poodoom	Laokunnonee	4532	"	73 20
	"	Lookooouroo	"	"	
6	Roopun	Koollova	4537	"	26 60
7	Moogan	Radha	4552	"	73 20
	"	Lohochuna	"	"	
8	Rye	Dossy	4562	"	26 60
9	Deegumbruee	Dooknee	729	"	73 20
	"	Escoanea	"	"	
10	Shanj	Beenund	4520	"	73 20
	"	Guness	"	"	
11	Ghooneah	Seetalu	3757	Duke of Bedford	73 20
	"	Rumjeet	"	"	
12	Imneeth	Pooneeat	5821	"	—
	"	Lookooru	"	"	—

The women numbered from 4 to 12 inclusively, paid their children's passage at the rate charged by the "Bucephalus," but went eventually by the "Shand" at a lower rate. They consequently overpaid 1*l.* 14*s.* per head. This error was not discovered till after the ship

sailed. *The amount overpaid, namely, 28*l.* 18*s.*, I transmitted to Calcutta in a letter to Mr. Caird, Emigration Agent, dated 13th September 1853.

The passage money by the "Bucephalus" amounted per head to - 36 dolls. 6 c.
Ditto, per "Shand" - - - - - - 28 dolls. 44 c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY MITCHELL,
Agent-General of Immigrants.

The Hon. Thomas F. Johnston,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 7.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 82.) Trinidad, November 7, 1854.
(Received December 2, 1854.)
(Answered, No. 62, December 26, 1854, page 278.)

SIR,

BEGGING leave to refer to my Despatch, No. 58, dated 23rd August last, requesting that one thousand Coolies may be forwarded to this colony in the early part of next year, and adverting to the serious loss of nearly one-seventeenth of the whole population of the island to which the epidemic has exposed us, I think you will excuse me for urging the necessity of a prompt reinforcement to our labouring strength.

I may mention that there stands to the credit of the immigration funds in the books of the Colonial Treasury a sum of nearly 20,000*l.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 8.

Extract of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart., dated, Trinidad, December 9, 1854.

(No. 92.) (Received January 1, 1855.)
(Answered, No. 67, January 13, 1855, page 279.)

I HAD the honour yesterday to receive your Despatch, No. 44, dated 4th November, and I avail myself of the return mail to renew the urgent request contained in my Despatches, No. 58, dated 23rd August, and No. 82, dated 7th November 1854, that 1,000 Coolies may be sent out as soon as possible. They are much wanted, and you will observe by the accompanying letter from the Agent-General of Immigrants, that he would be prepared to send back from 300 to 350 immigrants, part for Madras and part for Calcutta. I have, therefore, to request that the necessary instructions may be forwarded to the Land and Emigration Commissioners to send out the ship early in the ensuing year; and begging leave to refer you to the concluding paragraph of my Despatch, No. 82, no doubt need be entertained that funds will be available to meet the expenses both of the introduction of the 1,000 Coolies requested and of the passages of the return immigrants.

Enclosure 1.

You will perceive with satisfaction, from the enclosed statement of the revenue and expenditure for the eleven months ending on the 30th ultimo, compared with the same period in 1853, which I communicated to the Council at their ordinary meeting of the 1st instant, that in the eleven months of the current year there has been an increase of revenue of 4,548*l.* over expenditure; whilst the expenditure in 1854 (owing chiefly to the completion of the water-works on the 15th August last) has decreased by 21,284*l.* The amount in the depôt and detail chest on the 30th ultimo was 25,901*l.* By this mail, however, I have remitted 7,000*l.* to the Agent-General on account of immigration and other colonial obligations in England; but I see no reason to doubt that the customs and other receipts during the current month, usually one of arrivals and active trade, will not differ much from the receipts during November, *i. e.*, between 8,000*l.* and 9,000*l.*, and thus compensate for the remittance made.

Enclosure 2.

TRINIDAD.

3. The first half of this year was a period of great depression, owing to the low prices of produce in Europe, and the elevated rates of homeward freight. At the end of August we were invaded by the pestilence, and for several weeks there was an almost total stagnation of business throughout the colony; but in the last six weeks I am happy to be able to report that a much improved condition of affairs has taken place.

Encl. 1 in No. 8.

Enclosure 1 in No. 8.

Immigration Office,
Trinidad, December 9, 1854.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that the number of Coolies who have terminated their industrial residence, and are prepared to avail themselves of a return passage, whether to Calcutta or Madras, is at present trifling; but before the end of this month, or in all January, a sufficient number will have terminated their annual engagements to freight a vessel carrying from 300 to 350 return immigrants, that is, on the supposition that the majority of those referred to do not renew their agreements.

The practice of voluntary yearly renewals, on receiving a bounty of 10 dolls., or say 2*l.* sterling, to make it correspond with the other indenture fees, is one which finds daily greater favour with old Coolies, and is very extensively acted on.

To meet probable contingencies, the vessel should be chartered for either Madras or Calcutta, or for both collectively.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY MITCHELL,
Agent-General of Immigrants.

The Hon. Thomas F. Johnston,
&c. &c.

Encl. 2 in No. 8.

Enclosure 2 in No. 8.

MESSAGE.

THE Governor acquaints the Board that the Secretary of State has acceded to certain proposals for early and prospective retrenchment in the fixed establishments of this colony, submitted by him. In order, however, that the further pleasure of Her Majesty's Government may be received on the pension or compensation arrangements which the intended modifications will demand, it is requisite that the estimates for 1855 should still be adapted to the present scheme of the establishments. They will be laid before the Board in a few weeks. In the meantime, the Governor may inform the Board that since the 1st of January 1854, the following reductions on the fixed establishment have been carried into effect, viz.:—

Judicial Establishment.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Master—staff of office, &c. (abolished)	710	0	0			
Half-salary official assignee (idem)	200	0	0			
				910	0	0

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

Half-salary to Roman Catholic Bishop (reduced)				500	0	0

Medical Department.

Staff of Coolie hospital (abolished)	220	0	0			
Visitor, San Fernando hospital	100	0	0			
				320	0	0

Surveyor-General's Department.

Surveyor-General (abolished)				300	0	0

Police Department.

One sub-inspector (reduced)				164	10	0

	£	s.	d.
Miscellaneous (exclusive of Establishments).			
Printing and publishing votes of council - - -	120	0	0
	£2,314	10	0
The reductions shortly to be effected will arise from the consolidation of the offices of Treasurer and collector under one officer to be called the "receiver-general." Under this head the relief accruing to the general revenue, not otherwise pledged, will amount to about - - - - - 2,500 0 0			
Consolidation of office of harbour master at San Fernando with sub-collector - - - - - - - 100 0 0			
	2,600	0	0
Prospective Retrenchment.			
Ecclesiastical establishment - - - -			
Church of England.			
Archdeacon's salary when next vacancy occurs - - - -	500	0	0
Judicial Department.			
Official assignee, remaining portion of salary when that office shall be consolidated with another - - - -	200	0	0
Harbour-Master's Department.			
Harbour-master, Port of Spain, reduction of salary in case of vacancy - - - - - - - -	130	0	0
Education.			
Consolidation of secretary with inspector of schools - -	50	0	0
	£5,794	10	0

	£	s.	d.
It is further intended that the immigration accounts should be kept separate and distinct from the other accounts of the colony, and that the revenue arising from rum duties and duties on immigrants set apart for this purpose should be charged with the expense of collecting, and all the other charges of the service. By this arrangement the general revenue will be still further relieved to the extent of - -	720	0	0
It will be collected from this statement, that the total amount of contemplated reductions on the fixed establishments already effected and prospectively to be effected, of which the charge has hitherto devolved upon the general revenue, will amount in round numbers to about - -	6,500	0	0
And the Governor computes that the income not specifically appropriated will shortly be relieved to the extent of about - - -	4,500	0	0
After due provision has been made for such pension or compensation allowances as Her Majesty's Government may see fit to sanction.			
A comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the first eleven months of 1853, and for the same period of the current year, is annexed, from which it will appear that the revenue in 1854 has *increased* by - - - - - - - -	4,548	14	6½
The expenditure has *decreased* by - - - - - -	21,284	2	2½

It should be noticed, that advances out of the public treasury to the amount of about 12,000 dolls. are not comprised in this statement for cholera charges, on which subject it will be necessary that the Governor should make a separate communication to the Board when all the accounts are collected.

Government House, 1st December 1854.

TRINIDAD.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Expenditure for the Eleven Months of the Years 1853 and 1854, 1st January to 30th November in each Year:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries—fixed establishments	44,119 6 5	43,576 10 1½	- - -	542 16 3½
Salaries—provisional and temporary	149 1 6½	91 13 4	- - -	57 8 0½
Allowances	3,011 13 2	3,124 0 6	112 7 4	—
Pensions	167 14 3	120 0 0	- - -	47 14 3
Interest in savings bank	253 13 11	120 7 4½	- - -	133 6 6½
Drawbacks and refund of duties	2,634 17 10	3,252 19 1½	618 1 3½	—
Hospitals, exclusive of establishments	3,876 3 11½	4,000 9 5½	124 5 6	—
Police and gaols	3,290 8 5	3,508 2 4½	217 13 11½	—
Works and buildings	16,454 3 10½	7,845 4 6	- - -	8,608 19 4½
Miscellaneous services	3,915 8 5½	9,146 2 2*	5,230 13 8½	—
Administration of justice	207 17 2	159 5 5	- - -	48 11 9
Revenue services, exclusive of establishments	37 18 7	4 15 4	- - -	33 3 3
Transports	67 1 0½	40 15 0	- - -	26 6 0½
Roads, streets, and bridges	8,726 5 11	4,854 6 5½	- - -	3,871 19 5½
Office contingencies	1,588 18 11½	1,129 4 4	- - -	459 14 7½
Rents	2,130 7 8½	1,794 18 10½	- - -	335 8 10
Conveyance of mails	727 18 4	1,349 17 11	621 19 7	—
Immigration account	1,138 3 10	1,250 3 1	111 19 3	
Postage	1,387 6 5	1,252 6 2	- - -	135 0 3
Education, exclusive of establishments	615 3 9½	559 18 11	- - -	55 4 10½
Interest on loans, and on account of sinking fund	13,965 9 3	- - -	- - -	13,965 9 3
Ecclesiastical, exclusive of establishments	250 0 0	250 0 0	- - -	—
Total	108,715 2 8	87,431 0 5½	7,037 0 7½	28,321 2 10

1st December 1854. J. A. ALLEN, Colonial Treasurer.

* MEM.—In the sum 9,146*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* is included that of 6,000*l.* remitted to the agent in London to meet interest and sinking fund on loans placed pro tem. to miscellaneous services as suspense account.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Revenue for the Eleven Months of the Years 1853 and 1854, 1st January to 30th November each Year.

Branch of Revenue.	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	44,146 3 7½	50,348 9 4½	6,202 5 9	—
Rum duty	17,201 13 0	16,449 0 2	- - -	752 12 10
Land revenue	314 13 6	289 10 7	- - -	25 2 11
Land sales	354 13 6	307 19 2	- - -	46 14 4
Licenses	3,084 9 4	3,144 9 4	60 0 0	—
Fines, forfeitures, &c.	2,598 14 9	2,164 14 9½	- - -	433 19 11½
Fees of office	931 19 5½	812 13 1	- - -	119 6 4½
Special receipts	301 6 1	282 18 11½	- - -	18 7 1½
Reimbursements in aid	3,465 15 7	5,930 5 11½	2,464 10 4½	—
Miscellaneous receipts	66 14 3½	252 0 11½	185 6 8	—
Roads	5,589 19 3	4,288 6 0	- - -	1,301 13 3
Sale of Government property	69 2 6	17 1 10	- - -	52 0 8
Immigration account	8,011 17 1	6,446 8 5½	- - -	1,565 8 7½
Postage account	1,357 9 11	1,309 7 9	- - -	48 2 2
	87,494 11 10½	92,043 6 5	8,912 2 9½	4,363 8 3

	£ s. d.
1854	92,043 6 5
1853	87,494 11 10½
Balance increase	4,548 14 6½

1st December 1854. J. A. ALLEN, Colonial Treasurer.

RETURN of Duties collected on certain Articles in the Years 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, respectively, and from 1st January to 31st October 1854.

Articles.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1st January to 31st October 1854.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bread and crackers	101 2 6	139 2 6	95 10 0	89 10 0	56 12 6	93 14 10
Beef and pork	2,226 5 0	2,144 15 10	2,165 16 8	947 10 0	1,736 17 10	1,532 11 0
Corn	236 5 10	219 11 8	242 2 6	184 13 6	224 3 4	143 17 3
Corn meal	399 5 0	497 5 0	362 0 0	414 5 0	338 5 0	337 8 6
Cottons, linens, and woollens	3,738 15 10	4,386 9 1	4,279 11 9	3,647 14 8	3,387 1 7	3,313 17 7
Fish (dried)	2,052 1 3	2,208 10 6	1,528 8 0	2,251 10 6	1,941 3 6	1,718 3 6
Flour	7,818 5 0	9,077 0 0	10,196 0 0	9,923 0 0	8,575 10 0	5,418 7 6
Rice	2,986 17 6	2,796 9 4	3,056 16 2	2,714 3 4	3,702 19 9	3,434 13 1
Spirits	2,274 2 0	2,448 6 0	2,787 4 0	2,596 12 0	2,725 5 6	2,179 2 0
Sugar	753 13 10	801 17 9	850 6 8	801 3 4	717 17 10	1,367 3 4
Wines at 6*d.* and 1*s.* per gallon	691 2 0	730 5 0	630 13 0	440 16 6	1,086 17 0	457 3 0
Wines at 3*s.* and 6*s.* per dozen	275 5 0	297 9 0	320 8 0	206 5 0	200 0 0	256 13 0
	23,553 0 9	25,747 1 8	26,514 16 9	24,227 3 10	24,692 13 10	20,252 14 7

The duties on spirits, sugar, and wines were doubled, and on cottons, linens, and woollens, increased one and a half per cent. on 7th November 1853.

RETURN of the State of the Colonial Treasury, 1st December 1854.

	£	s.	d.
Monies in deposit chest	24,666	5	0
„ detail chest	1,234	17	4
Total of public monies	£25,901	2	4
N.B.—Balance in hands of treasurer as per daily cash book	4,280	7	1½
From which to be deducted advances on account of cholera or for public services $14,618 35 cts.	3,045	9	9½
Net balance as above	£1,234	17	4
Balance in hands of treasurer of monies belonging to wards in his district	$22,376	06 cts.	

J. A. ALLEN, Colonial Treasurer.

COLONIAL TREASURY, 1st December 1854.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance at 31st October	285	0	3½	Payments during November	4,957	17	6
Receipts during November	8,953	4	4	Balance at 30th November	4,280	7	1½
	£9,238	4	7½		£9,238	4	7½

	£	s.	d.
Balance brought down	4,280	7	1½
Less advances	3,054	9	9½
Net balance	1,234	17	4

J. A. ALLEN, Colonial Treasurer.

No. 9.

No. 9.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 18.)

Trinidad, February 20, 1855.

(Received March 22, 1855.)

(Answered, No. 17, April 26, 1855, page 279.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward transcripts of an Ordinance passed by the Legislative Council of this colony (No. 24 of 1854) entitled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Laws with regard to Immigration," together with the usual report by the Attorney-General.

Appendix, No. 17, page 458.

TRINIDAD.

With the exception of the additions and modifications explained in Mr. Warner's report, the most material of which is the 19th clause, intended to cover the case of indentured immigrants introduced previous to 1st January 1854, this Ordinance is a transcript of the model Ordinance forwarded in the Duke of Newcastle's Despatch, No. 10* of the 7th March 1854.

* Page 266.

The Agent-General of Immigrants thinks that the new law, when thoroughly understood by all parties concerned, will be a great improvement. For my own part, I observe that the condition of these people is better than that of any labouring classes I ever saw in Asia, and I am disposed to believe that at the end of a ten years' residence most of them will have little inclination to leave this colony for the low wages and harder toil of their own country. The culture of provisions is extending amongst them; the standard of their diet is improving; and there can be no doubt that they are gradually collecting resources, and attaching themselves to the soil.

Enclosure.

I transmit a return of the immigrants under indenture in this colony on the 31st December last, with a memorandum appended, by the Agent-General of Immigrants, showing the number of deaths during the last quarter of 1854,—viz., 96 Coolies and 10 Chinese. All the deaths entered during that period were ascribed to cholera; but it deserves attention that 52 of the 96 deaths amongst the Coolies took place on five estates severely afflicted, whose whole population was under 350, leaving a mortality of 44 on the remaining 5,000,—*i.e.* rather less than 9 per 1,000.

I take the opportunity of this Despatch to mention that Coolie immigration has commenced in the neighbouring French colonies,—the shipments taking place, I conclude, at Pondicherry. It does not appear that any arrangement has been made for their return passage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

Sir George Grey, Bart., &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 9.

Enclosure in No. 9.

IMMIGRANTS UNDER INDENTURE.

COUNTIES.	Coolies.			Deaths.	Africans.	China.
	Men.	Women.	Children.			
St. George - - -	1,009	197	195	6	59	141
Caroni - - -	1,038	180	234	2	8	148
Victoria - - -	1,547	237	152	5	19	301
St. Patrick - - -	308	61	25	- -	- -	83
	3,902	675	606	13	86	673

Deaths from cholera among Coolie population during September, October, November, and December - - - - - - 96

Id.—Among Chinese during same period - - - - 10

Fifty-two of the ninety-six Coolies died on five estates, whose united population was under 350, reducing the average of deaths among indented Coolies to less than one per cent.

All deaths during the above period have been entered as "cholera." The thirteen deaths in the table were previous to September 1854.

(Signed) HENRY MITCHELL,
Agent-General for Immigrants.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 38.) Trinidad, April 20, 1855.

MY LORD, (Received May 27, 1855.)

Enclosure.

I HAVE the honour to forward the returns of the Agent-General of Immigrants, letters C. and D,† for the quarter ending 31st March 1855.

† A blank return.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

TRINIDAD.

Enclosure in No. 10.

C.

RETURN of the Immigration on Bounty and otherwise, into Trinidad, during the Quarter ended on the 31st March 1855.

Name of Ship.	Registered Tonnage.	Name of Surgeon.	Port of Departure.	Port of Arrival.	Date of Sailing.	Date of Arrival.	No. of Days on Voyage.	Emigrants embarked.					Births on Voyage.		Deaths on Voyage.				Emigrants landed.					State in each Case, whether on Bounty or unassisted.	If on Bounty, state in each Case rate in Sterling.	State in each Case the Total Amount in Sterling of Bounties paid.
								Adults.		Children under 14.		Total.	Males.	Females.	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Total.			
								M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
																										£ s. d.
Windsor	676	A. C. Shout	Calcutta	Trinidad	Dec. 2, 1854.	Mar. 10, 1855.	97	240	38	12	4	294	–	–	9	2	–	–	231	36	12	4	283	—	—	—
								8 Infants.											8 Infants.							
TOTALS	676	—	—	—	—	—	—	240	38	12	4	294	–	–	9	2	–	–	231	36	12	4	283	—	—	£

(Signed) HY. MITCHELL, Government Immigration Agent.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 44.) Trinidad, May 9, 1855.

(Received June 7, 1855.)

(Answered, No. 20, June 29, 1855, page 280.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the copy of a resolution passed by the Legislative Council on the 1st instant, requesting me to make immediate application to your Lordship to issue the necessary instructions for the introduction of 2,000 Coolies to leave India about the following dates, and in the following proportions, viz.,—

Enclosure.

1,000 between the months of November and the end of December next, and 1,000 in all the month of January.

The application for Coolie labour in the year 1856 reached the high number of 2,700, but on a division in Council the number was reduced to 2,000. The unofficial members of the Board connected with the planting interest requested me at the same time to urge on your Lordship's particular notice that the heavy loss of creole labour attributable to cholera, the short supply of Coolie labour during the current year (about 300), and the return of those now proceeding to India in the ship "Scindia" (about 300), will cast them into circumstances of great difficulty unless the supply now requested is fully complied with.

Whilst I readily admit the force of the exceptional considerations raised by those gentlemen, I thought it right to declare my own opinion in Council that, as a general rule, the introduction of Coolies into Trinidad, at least in the present situation of the island, should be limited to about 1,000 per annum. I will only add upon this point, that if the cost of the introduction during the year 1856 should not exceed 14*l.* per head, the Colonial Government will be prepared to meet the payment in the colony for the 2,000 Coolies now requested as the ships arrive.

I take this opportunity of stating that the ship "Scindia" did not arrive here to carry away the return Coolies till the 17th ultimo,—that is, about a month beyond the date specified in the charter-party (20th March). She also had no surgeon on board, and I could not allow the Coolies to embark for India, particularly at this advanced season for the passage round the Cape, without making some provision for their medical care. I have therefore resolved, in the impossibility of finding any medical gentleman regularly qualified to go on with the people, to send the dispenser of the Colonial Hospital, who has been well accustomed to the treatment of Coolies, and will be furnished with careful instructions by Dr. Mitchell, the Agent-General of Immigrants. The returned Coolies will also be supplied with winter clothing. The number to return is about 300. I have had great reluctance in sending them at this advanced

TRINIDAD.

season of the year; but finding that there would be much disappointment amongst them, if they should be detained in the colony till next year, I have thought it best to avail myself of this opportunity.

Right Hon. Lord J. Russell, &c. &c. &c. I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

Encl. in No. 11.

Enclosure in No. 11.

RESOLVED,—That his Excellency the Governor be requested to make immediate application to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies to give orders for the introduction into this colony of 2,000 Coolies to leave India at the following times, viz., 1,000 in all the months of November and December, and 1,000 in all the month of January next.

No. 12.

No. 12.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor ELIOTT to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL, dated Trinidad, May 11, 1855.

(No. 46.) (Received June 7, 1855), (Answered No. 26, July 13, 1855, page 281.)

Vide Appendix, No. 18. Page 464.

I have the honour to forward transcripts of the following ordinances passed by the Legislative Council of this colony.

No. 7.—To encourage immigrants to enter into contracts for further terms of industrial residence, and to confirm certain agreements of service already entered into by immigrants.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No 49.) Trinidad, May 23, 1855.
(Received, June 16, 1855.)

MY LORD, (Answered No. 20, June 29, 1855, page 280.)

AT the request of several of the principal planters in this colony, I beg leave, with reference to my Despatch No. 44,* dated 9th May instant, again to solicit your Lordship's particular attention to the great pressure for labour which those gentlemen state themselves to be suffering from, during the present crop season, a season, I am concerned to say, of peculiar difficulty, owing to the extraordinary prevalence of heavy rains throughout a period usually free from showers.

* Page 317.

Since I forwarded my Despatch No. 44, I have caused a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the first four months of the current year to be prepared, and I am happy to report that owing to the large increase of the rum duty set apart for immigration purposes, the total receipts applicable to this branch of the service have amounted in the four months ending the 30th April to 9,835*l.*, against disbursements of 2,769*l.*

I see no reason to doubt that the income available for immigration will maintain itself for the remainder of the year, and I trust that your Lordship will accede to the anxious appeals of these gentlemen, and direct the Land and Emigration Commissioners to send out as many Coolies as can be introduced for 30,000*l.*, to arrive in Trinidad between the months of January and March next.

Right Hon. Lord J. Russell, &c. &c. &c. I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL, M.P.

(No. 69.) Trinidad, August 9, 1855.

MY LORD, (Received September 6, 1855.)

I COMMUNICATED to the Council, on the occasion of their last meeting, your Lordship's Despatch, No. 20, dated 29th June, and Circular Despatch† of the 23rd June, and a committee was named to prepare a representation for your Lordship's consideration on the somewhat gradual application of the rule respecting the proportion of female Coolie immigrants in the pressed condition of the colony for better labour supply. I remarked that I could not think Her

† Page 280.

Majesty's Government would consent to any relaxation in this respect, and the Council generally acceded to the necessity, as well as the ulterior advantage to the colony, that the female immigration should be systematically sustained in due relation to that of the males. Speaking for myself, I cannot but say that I hold such a condition to be quite indispensable.

The leaning in this colony is certainly in favour of immigration from Bengal, less I believe from any well-founded impression that the Coolies from Madras are less serviceable or more difficult of control, than from the rather unfortunate selection of the first party from that presidency. If, however, it should appear that there is less difficulty in procuring a due proportion of females from Madras than from Bengal, I am satisfied it would much rather be the general wish of the Council that the Coolies should be forwarded from Madras than that there should be any material shortness of supply.

It is believed that if Lord Harris were appealed to on the point, he would take particular pleasure in securing a careful selection of immigrants for this colony, towards which his Lordship has always evinced so deep an interest, and where his name will always be held in honourable recollection.

Right Hon. Lord J. Russell, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

No. 15.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Elliot to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 14.)

Trinidad, February 8, 1856.
(Received March 20, 1856.)
(Answered, No. 64, April 16, 1856, p. 283.)

Sir,

Much anxiety has been felt by the Government and the planting interest in this colony, in consequence of the unfavourable opinion expressed by Mr. Caird respecting the future supply of Coolie labour. At the meeting of Council on 1st instant, a resolution was passed, of which I have the honour to transmit a copy, requesting me to place myself in communication with Lord Harris, and pledging the Board to the payment of an agent at Madras, if it should be thought, on further inquiry, that considerable reinforcement of Coolie immigration might be derived from that presidency.

In order that no time may be lost, I take the liberty to request, if you should approve of the proposal of the Board, that Lord Harris should be moved from England to take the necessary steps in the matter.

The resolution does not specify the amount of allowance which the Board would be willing to grant to the agent at Madras; but I entertain no doubt that any arrangement which Lord Harris might consider suitable in that respect would be thankfully sustained by them.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Extract from the Minutes of the Legislative Council, dated 1st February 1856.

Resolved,—"That his Excellency the Governor be requested to communicate with the Right Hon. the Governor of Madras, with the view of ascertaining whether an immigration of Coolies to this island could be obtained from Madras, and that His Excellency be requested to obtain the sanction of Her Majesty's Government to the appointment of an immigration agent at Madras, if it shall appear to his Excellency to be expedient to make such appointment."—Carried.

No. 16.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Elliot to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 17.)

Trinidad, February 21, 1856.
(Received March 20, 1856.)

Sir,

Herewith I have the honour to transmit an interesting report of Mr. Alexander W. Anderson, the Acting Agent-General of Immigrants, for the

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year 1855, and I take this opportunity of stating that this gentleman has performed the duties of this office to my entire satisfaction during the absence of Dr. Mitchell, not yet returned to the colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 16.

Encl. in No. 16.

SIR, Trinidad, Immigration Office, January 24, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to submit for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor the following observations on the subject of immigration for the period of the last year, during which I have been acting as Agent-General of Immigrants.

I entered on the duties of this office on the 1st of June last in consequence of the absence on leave of Dr. Mitchell, who had been laid up for some time from an injury.

My first object on commencing these duties was to cause indentures to be executed in respect of those immigrants who required being indented, and which indentures I endeavoured to make strictly in conformity with the provisions of the Ordinance of the 17th November 1854, No. 24.

No. 1.
No. 2.
No. 3.
No. 4.

Copies of these indentures I have the honour to annex, marked respectively Nos. 1, 2, and 3. No. 1 relates to those Indian immigrants who have not completed a residence of three years in the island, and who are, according to the Ordinance, to be adscripted to an estate on their arrival here for that period of three years; No. 2 relates to those who have completed a residence of three years, but not of four years; and No. 3 relates to those who have been more than four years but less than five years in the colony.

All these forms of indenture contain the same provisions respecting lodging, medicine, and medical attendance, and the payment of wages at stated periods. No. 4 is the form adopted in respect of immigrants who have completed their industrial residence, and who voluntarily bind themselves for service under the Ordinance of the 9th March 1855.

The consideration given in these last-mentioned cases has been always two pounds sterling, and the period of service one year. In consequence of this contract voluntarily entered into by the immigrant, he becomes as it were a new immigrant for the period mentioned in the indenture, not to exceed one year, and is subject to the provisions of the Ordinance of the 17th November.

Since the 1st June last I have executed 230 indentures in respect of these free immigrants, and the amount paid to them by the planters as a consideration for their thus binding themselves for the period of twelve months, independently of wages, has been 460*l.* sterling.

On the termination of the indenture No. 1 or No. 2 the immigrant has a right to remove from one estate to another on his giving notice to his employer and the Agent-General of Immigrants, and finding a new employer ready to pay to the Government 3*l.* instead of 2*l.* as stamp duty on the new indenture. This increase of duty is no impediment to the removal of the immigrants, in consequence of the demand which exists for labour, while the right conceded to the immigrant is of importance as a guarantee to a certain extent to him of his being properly treated by his employer.

During the last two months about 200 Indian immigrants have given notice of their intention to take advantage of this right of removal, but in the generality of cases it has not been insisted on by them. Had a crisis taken place in the labour market in this island since the receipt of the intelligence of the sudden and great rise in the price of sugar, such a circumstance might not be wondered at, but Coolie labour seems fortunately to be free from such accidents and fluctuations.

Medical attendance is now secured to the Coolies located on estates, with the exception of about 100 of these immigrants who are working on estates not generally within the reach of medical attendance. The medical practitioner thus engaged is under contract to visit each estate at least once a week, and the employer is bound by law, during the inability of the immigrant to labour on account of illness, to provide him with such allowances as the state of his health may require, or as may be prescribed by the regulations of the Governor. Independently of the wise provisions of the law thus to force the employer to attend to the health of the immigrant on the estate, I have freely taken advantage of the permission of his Excellency the Governor, and in every case where an immigrant has applied to me for admission to hospital treatment, or where he has seemed to me in any way requiring such treatment, sent such immigrant to the hospital in Port of Spain. The number of cases I have so sent to the hospital since the 1st of June has been forty-one Coolies and eleven Chinese; but these, generally speaking, have been abandoned characters who have brought sickness on themselves by laziness, uncleanness, and wandering habits. At the same time it would be extraordinary were there not some cases of suspicious neglect on the part of employers; and it appears to me the best way of checking such disposition to neglect on the part of employers is by watching them narrowly in this respect, and withholding immigrants from them in future; and in any case that might occur deserving of severe treatment taking advantage of the provisions of the Ordinance, and removing the

immigrants from such employer altogether. But no such extreme case has come under my notice, and I am bound to state that cases of ill-treatment or neglect on the part of the employer towards the immigrant are exceptional and of rare occurrence.

The annual mortality among the Indian immigrants is now low, so also with the Chinese now that they have settled down into regular industrial habits. Both these races on the various estates I have visited throughout the different districts of the island appear generally healthy, contented, and to be industrious.

They do not certainly work with the vigour and constancy contemplated by the 30th clause of the Ordinance, which requires both man and woman to work nine hours a day every day during the year, except Sundays, Good Friday, New Year's and Christmas Day.

This law is in practice a dead letter, as is the case generally with every provision where too much severity is attempted to be enforced. Day labour is unknown, except for jobbing, and during crop in the mill and boiling-house, and even in the latter case task-work is not unfrequently resorted to; and I doubt if, out of crop time, the Coolie works on an average more than four days in the week, getting through his task, for which he is paid from 10*d.* to about 15*d.*; in about six hours time.

Unfortunately, however, in referring to the generally healthy appearance of the Coolies, I cannot do so without lamenting that, placed as they are, an isolated race among Africans, and others of different races with whom they refuse to amalgamate, they should be subject to suffer from calamities incident to the great disparity in numbers existing between the sexes. It is a source of satisfaction and congratulation that this subject has been taken up by the Government, and a regulation insisted on that one Coolie woman should accompany every three male immigrants,—a preparatory rule, to be extended, it is to be hoped, still further, as circumstances may admit, until the sexes can be equalized. It seems that in the eagerness to get immigration at the outset, all prudential motives were heretofore postponed on this ground. But looking at immigration as mixed up with the future permanent prosperity of the colony, and seeing the tendency of the Indian race to multiply here and give us a fine population of labourers, industrious, frugal, and of easy tempers, it is a source of satisfaction to know that this regulation has been made to guide the egress of immigration from India.

The quarterly returns sent to this office by the employers of immigrants, as required by the 11th clause of the Ordinance, are in general incorrect. This may be attributed to the want of proper registers on the estates,—an evil I do not expect will be cured until the ordinance of the 17th November has been in force for some time longer.

Sub-Enclosure.

There is a very great demand for labour throughout the colony. The whole number of Coolies working on estates does not exceed 5,000, on whom the main dependence is placed of keeping up the crops of the island. The old creole population,—that is, the emancipated classes,—may be looked upon as almost lost to the agriculture of the colony. The few of them who work occasionally on sugar estates are not to be depended on, on account of the unsteadiness of their work; and for weeding at the commencement of the season immediately after crop, they are utterly unavailable. Fortunately there has been a spell of dry weather towards the fall of the year, which, coupled with the news of the rise in the price of sugar, has stimulated the planters to push on and make a quantity of sugar at an unusual period of the year, otherwise it might be doubted whether they would be in a position to take off the crop of this year on account of want of labour.

The question of a steady annual influx of labour to this island is one of particular interest, now that the colony seems to have got through the paroxysms of West Indian distress. That the vast advantages of her excellent soil are beginning to manifest themselves and to show their elasticity in recoiling from the shock of slave competition, and that absentee mortgagees and proprietors are giving way to the energy of resident proprietors, taught habits of economy and of improved agriculture, and likely to become men of independent means. Coupled with such prospects, the small number of immigrants who arrived here last year, and the reported difficulty of procuring immigrants in India for the West Indies this year, are subjects of anxiety requiring consideration and action.

In the estimates for 1855, the revenue to be derived from the dues payable on immigrants was put down as follows:—

Fees on 1,000 Coolies - - - -	£2,000
On indentures falling due in 1855, 2,700 at 2*l.* -	5,400
On 700 Chinese, at 1*l.* - - - -	700

Instead of 1,000 immigrants, only 231 arrived here last year, reducing this source of anticipated revenue by 1,538*l.* sterling. The amount paid into the Colonial Treasury up to the end of the year on indentures, through this office, is 7,301*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; on Chinese dues, 565*l.*; and on miscellaneous points, as appearing by the documents recorded in the office of the Colonial Secretary, 912*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*; making together the sum of 8,779*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* sterling.

There is a class of immigrants to whom I consider it right to allude, as the attention of Government will probably be called to them before the end of this year,—I mean those who are generally called the $50 Coolies.

These consist of 1,100 Indian immigrants who, during the month of September 1851, received each $50 from the Colonial Government on condition that they should perform a further industrial residence of five years. The Ordinance, No. 11, 1851 (23 May 1851), was passed to meet the case of these immigrants, and it enacts, that the term of such

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further industrial residence should commence from the day of the immigrant signing the contract, of which a form is appended to the Ordinance, and which he was required to sign along with the Agent-General of Immigrants, while the particulars of the term of service were to be governed by the Ordinance of the 9th of April 1850.

None of these immigrants signed any contract, but having received the bounty proposed entered upon the contemplated course of further industrial service. Both these Ordinances (the 9th April 1850, and the 23rd May 1851) were repealed by the Ordinance of the 17th November 1854, except as to then existing engagements to labour; but the latter Ordinance contained no provision at all respecting these county Coolies. I therefore found some difficulty in dealing with the case of these immigrants; but rather than apply to the Legislature for any new Ordinance on the subject, I took upon myself to indent these county immigrants up to the first of October next, causing the planter to pay stamp duty on the indentures at the same rate as fixed by the Ordinance of the 17th November on new immigrants, that is, at the rate of 2*l.* sterling for the year, which he paid without inquiring into any point of law connected with the case. The term of these five years will thus terminate on the 1st October next.

A question suggests itself at present, whether immigrants from India should in future be required to contribute any payment towards their return passage. It appears to me desirable that an exaction of this sort should be given up, and the prospect held out to every future immigrant from India of his being sent back to his native country free of expense after a term of industrial service of ten years in the colony.

From what I have seen of the habits and feelings of these people, it appears to me a large majority of them, after a residence of ten years, will never seek to return to India, or may be induced for a moderate consideration to prolong their stay in the colony for the purpose of performing further terms of industrial service. A tendency to equalize the sexes, and thus to engender family ties and associations in the colony, will no doubt render this result still more probable; while the prospect held out to the emigrating Coolie of being sent back to his native country after a certain number of years, will overcome or mitigate those very strong instinctive feelings, common to all men, which cause them to cling to their native soil. Independently of prudential motives, it has become a question of necessity, inasmuch as it is reported that the Coolies peremptorily refuse to emigrate on the understanding that they are to contribute towards the payment of their return passage. According to the law as it now stands, all immigrants introduced here previously to the 1st January 1854 are entitled to a return passage at the expense of the colony, after an industrial residence of five years. But now, when our want of Coolie immigration is made still more manifest, and there is a greater difficulty of procuring immigrants in India, even after an industrial residence of ten years in the colony, and when the Coolie has been "introduced into the colony under an agreement reserving to him a right to a return passage," he is not to be sent back to India unless he pay to the Colonial Treasurer such sum of money, not exceeding 7*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, sterling, as may be fixed by the Governor. It would seem that the intention in framing this clause was, that the immigrant should contribute towards his return passage, the rate to be fixed being left to the discretion of the Governor below a certain amount. But it is quite competent to the Governor, legally speaking, to fix the contribution towards the return passage at a mere nominal sum; although I take it, where an immigrant has been "introduced into the colony under an agreement reserving to him a right to a return passage," such immigrant is entitled to a return passage, without being called upon to contribute anything towards the payment of such return passage.

On the whole it affords me pleasure to report favourably on the state of the immigrants generally. Their wages are duly and regularly paid, their houses are suitable, they have regular medical attendance. In every district there is a magistrate to enforce their just rights. They are ever alive to resort to the office of the Agent-General of Immigrants in case they consider their rights infringed, who has ample power to insist on these rights; and while they are adscripted to the soil for a definite period, and obliged to be industrial, the same law which imposes these obligations on them contains provisions most wisely and efficiently adapted to secure to them proper treatment both in health and sickness.

Every system is subject to exceptions and malpractices, and it would be very extraordinary did not cases occur here from time to time requiring the intervention of the agent of immigration to insist on the claims of the immigrant labourer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEXANDER W. T. ANDERSON,
Acting Agent-General of Immigrants.

(No. 1.)

TRINIDAD.

THIS INDENTURE, made the day of , 185 , between Agent-General of Immigrants of this colony, on behalf of , immigrant labourer of the one part, and , of , in this island, of the other part: Whereas the said is an Indian immigrant introduced into this colony before the first day of January in the year 1854, by the ship , which arrived in this colony on the day of , in the year ,

This Indenture witnesseth, that in virtue of the Ordinance No. 24, for the year 1854 entitled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Laws with regard to Immigration," and in consideration of the agreements on the part of the said , herein-after contained. He the said , doth hereby bind and indent the said , to the said , until the day of , which will be in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty , being a term sufficient to make up three years from the arrival of the said in this colony, and doth hereby agree with the said , his heirs and assigns, that the said shall, during the said term or continuance of these presents, truly and faithfully serve the said , his heirs and assigns, as a labourer on plantation , according to the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony. And the said doth hereby agree with the said , that the said shall, during the said term or the continuance of these presents, provide the said with suitable and sufficient lodging, medicine, and medical attendance, in conformity with the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony, and also will pay wages monthly to the said , at the same rate which may be at the time paid to the labourers not under a written engagement working on the said plantation.

In witness whereof we have } hereunto set our hands. }

(No. 2.)

TRINIDAD.

THIS INDENTURE, made the day of 1855, between , Agent-General of Immigrants of this colony, on behalf of , immigrant labourer, of the one part, and , of , in this island, of the other part: Whereas the said is an Indian immigrant introduced into this colony before the first day of January in the year 1854, by the ship , which arrived in this colony on the day of in the year : This Indenture witnesseth that in virtue of the Ordinance No. 24 for the year 1854, entitled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Laws with regard to Immigration," and in consideration of the agreements on the part of the said herein-after contained, he the said doth hereby bind and indent the said to the said until the day of which will be in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty , being one year from the date of this indenture; and doth hereby agree with the said , his heirs and assigns, that the said shall during the said term or continuance of these presents truly and faithfully serve the said , his heirs and assigns, as a labourer on plantation , according to the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony. And the said doth hereby agree with the said that the said shall during the said term or continuance of these presents provide the said with suitable and sufficient lodging, medicine, and medical attendance, in conformity with the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony, and also will pay wages monthly to the said at the same rate which may be at the time paid to the labourers not under a written engagement working on the said plantation.

In witness whereof we have } hereunto set our hands. }

(No. 3.)

TRINIDAD.

THIS INDENTURE, made the day of 1855, between , Agent-General of Immigrants of this colony, on behalf of , immigrant labourer, of the one part, and , of in this island, of the other part. Whereas the said is an Indian immigrant introduced into this colony before the first day of January in the year 1854, by the ship , which arrived in this colony on the day of in the year : This Indenture witnesseth that in virtue of the Ordinance No. 24 for the year 1854, entitled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Laws with regard to Immigration," and in consideration of the agreements on the part of the said herein-after contained, he the said doth hereby bind and indent the said to the said until the day of which will be in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty , being such portion of a year as together with the time already elapsed since the arrival of the said within this colony will complete the term of five years from the day of such arrival. And doth hereby agree with the said , his heirs and assigns, that the said shall during the said term or continuance of these presents truly and faithfully serve the said ,

TRINIDAD.

his heirs and assigns, as a labourer on plantation , according to the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony. And the said doth hereby agree with the said that the said shall during the said term or the continuance of these presents provide the said with suitable and sufficient lodging, medicine, and medical attendance, in conformity with the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony, and also will pay wages monthly to the said at the same rate which may be at the time paid to the labourers not under a written engagement working on the said plantation.

In witness whereof we have } hereunto set our hands. }

(No. 4.)

TRINIDAD.

THIS INDENTURE, made the day of 185 , between , Agent-General of Immigrants of this colony, on behalf of , Indian immigrant, No. , introduced into this colony before the first day of January in the year 1854, of the one part, and of in this colony, of the other part: Witnesseth that in virtue of Ordinance No. 7 of 1855, and in consideration of the agreement on the part of the said herein-after contained, he the said doth hereby bind and indent the said to the said for the term of one year, to be computed from the date hereof; and doth hereby agree with the said , his heirs and assigns, that the said shall during the said term truly and faithfully serve the said , his heirs and assigns, as a labourer on plantation , according to the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony. And the said doth hereby agree with the said that he the said , his heirs and assigns, shall during the said term provide the said with suitable and sufficient lodging, medicine, and medical attendance, in conformity with the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony, and also will pay wages monthly to the said at the same rate which may be at the time paid to the labourers not under a written engagement working on the said plantation.

In witness whereof we have } hereunto set our hands. }

Sub-Enclosure in No. 16.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 16.

STATISTICS of Immigrant Population on the 31st December 1855.

Number of Indian immigrants working under indenture on estates at that date, who have not completed a residence of five years in the colony - -	3,195
Number of Indian immigrants, also working under indenture on estates, at the same date, who have been more than five years in the colony, but have received bounty from Government to perform an additional term of five years (to expire on the 1st October next) - - - - -	681
Number of free Indian immigrants working on estates at the same date, who have entered into contracts of service for one year - - - -	509
Number of free Indian immigrants located in the towns, villages, and throughout the country, working industrially, and chiefly independently of estates, about	2,000
Number of Chinese immigrants working under indenture on estates at the same date	594
Total - -	6,979

(Signed) ALEX. W. T. ANDERSON,
Acting Agent-General of Immigrants.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 28.) Trinidad, April 2, 1856.

SIR, (Received May 1, 1856.)

I HAVE the honour to forward the returns of immigration into this colony, Table C., in duplicate, for the quarter ended 31st March 1856.

I have, &c.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

Enclosure in No. 17.

C.

RETURN of the Immigration on Bounty and otherwise, into Trinidad, during the Quarter ended on the 31st March 1856.

Name of Ship.	Registered Tonnage.	Name of Surgeon.	Port of Departure.	Port of Arrival.	Date of Sailing.	Date of Arrival.	No. of Days on Voyage.	Emigrants embarked.					Births on Voyage.		Deaths on Voyage.				Emigrants landed.					State in each Case, whether on Bounty or unassisted.	If on Bounty, state in each Case rate in Sterling.	State in each Case the Total Amount in Sterling of Bounties paid.
								Adults.		Children under 14.		Total.	Males.	Females.	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Total.			
								M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Scindian	650	J. B. Ferdinando.	Calcutta	Port of Spain.	Dec. 16, 1855.	Mar. 16, 1856.	87	177	64	9	9	259	2	1	3	1	–	–	174	63	9	9	255	—	11 4 4	2,759 6 0
								8 Infants.						1 Infant.				8 Infants.							
TOTALS	650	—	—	—	—	—	87	177	64	9	9	259	2	1	3	1	–	–	174	63	9	9	255	—	11 4 4	2,759 6 0

(Signed) HY. MITCHELL, Government Immigration Agent.

No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 34.) Trinidad, April 8, 1856.

(Received May 1, 1856.)

(Answered, No. 100, July 31, 1856, page 286.)

SIR,

THE solicitude felt by the planting interest in this colony respecting the steady supply of immigration from India, and the rather discouraging reports recently received from Mr. Caird on that subject, have led the unofficial members of the Council to propose renewed recourse to immigration from China, at all events to the extent of one ship per annum. The accompanying resolution was thereupon carried by a unanimous vote of the Board on the 1st instant.

Enclosure.

Dr. Philip, the member of Council by whom this resolution was proposed, who has been very successful in the management of the Chinese immigrants, stated that he held them to be much more useful than the Coolies, and expressed his persuasion that they would soon take the lead on all the estates on which they were employed, both in field labour and in the manufacturing processes. That the Chinese, as a rule, are more robust and intelligent than the Coolies is an opinion in which I concur; and when their time is expired I am well assured that they will become a thriving and a useful people in this colony, teaching the inhabitants many arts and modes of economising labour of which they have no knowledge now. Neither do I doubt that they will easily connect themselves with the females of the country, and I believe that their progeny will be stronger and better able to sustain continuous toil in this climate than our own creole races. It is also a material consideration in an economical point of view that there is no engagement to pay back passages.

But while these are the advantages of immigration from China, I can by no means recommend it on any other than a limited scale, for it is not to be denied that they are far more difficult of management than the Coolies from India. That they do not bring women with them is also a serious reflection, and with my experience in that part of the world I am persuaded that at this remote distance from it, and with the facilities of emigration to the Straits and to Australia, we shall, for the most part, receive only the refuse of the town populations. To the limited extent, however, of one ship a year, I hope you will be pleased to instruct the Land and Emigration Commissioners to make arrangements for the renewal of this Chinese immigration. They should leave China in the early part of the north-east monsoon,—say about Christmas. It would also be highly necessary that one or two interpreters should come on in her capable of speaking the Canton and Fuhkeen dialects, and that they should be able to write Chinese. Our own interpreter (a worthy young man brought up

TRINIDAD.

at Malacca) has most unaccountably not been taught to write his own language, so that he can only communicate with the Chinese in the dialect which he speaks. He is paid at the rate of 75*l.* per annum, and the Colonial Government is under engagement, after * years' service, to furnish him with a free passage back to China.

* Blank in Original.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 18.

Enclosure in No. 18.

No. 34.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Legislative Council, dated 1st April 1856.

"That it is the opinion of this Board that, under the present great and general want of labour, it would be expedient to promote the immigration of Chinese labourers into this colony, and that His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to lay before Her Majesty's Government this resolution of the Board, with the request that three hundred Chinese immigrants be immediately introduced."—Carried.

No. 19.

No. 19.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 40.) Trinidad, May 5, 1856.
(Received June 5, 1856.)
(Answered; No. 86, June 21, 1856, page 285.)

SIR,

Enclosure.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the copy of a resolution passed by the Council on the 1st instant, requesting that a supply of 3,000 Indian immigrants should be introduced into this colony in the ensuing season. I stated that it did not appear to be likely, judging from Mr. Caird's reports and the increasing demand for labour in India, that so extensive an immigration could be depended upon; but I promised that I would request your renewed attention to the solicitude of the planters on this subject. For the last two years the immigration supply has been short in this colony, and the want of labour is said to have been seriously felt during the present crop season.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 19.

Enclosure in No. 19.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Legislative Council, dated 1st May 1856.

"Considering the deficiency in the introduction of Indian immigrants during the years 1854, 1855, and 1856, and the great demand for labour in the colony:

"Resolved,—That his Excellency the Governor be requested to make application to the Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to give directions that three thousand labourers at the least be introduced from India into the colony during the years 1856 and 1857."

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 58.) Trinidad, July 5, 1856.
(Received August 2, 1856.)

SIR,

Enclosure.

I TRANSMIT herewith the return of immigration for the quarter ended the 30th June 1856.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 20.

C.

RETURN of the Immigration on Bounty and otherwise, into Trinidad, during the Quarter ended on the 30th June 1856.

Name of Ship.	Registered Tonnage.	Name Surgeon.	Port of Departure.	Port of Arrival.	Date of Sailing.	Date of Arrival.	No. of Days on Voyage.	Emigrants embarked.					Births on Voyage.		Deaths on Voyage.				Emigrants landed.					State in each Case, whether on Bounty or unassisted.	If on Bounty, state in each Case Rate in Sterling.	State in each Case the Total Amount in Sterling of Bounties paid.
								Adults.		Children under 14.		Total.	Males.	Females.	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Total.			
								M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			£ s. d.	£ s.
Agincourt	958	W. T. Molloy	Calcutta	Trinidad	Jan. 19, 1856.	April 26, 1856.	97	261	76	14	13	364	-	-	7	1	1	2	254	75	13	11	353	Bounty 341	10 17 0	3,699 170
								10 infants.											10 infants.							
TOTALS	958	—	—	—	—	—	97	261	76	14	13	364	-	-	7	1	1	2	254	75	13	11	353	341	10 17 0	3,699 17 0

(Signed) HY. MITCHELL, Government Immigration Agent.

No. 21.

No. 21.

Enclosure.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir CHARLES ELLIOT to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 59.) Trinidad, July 6, 1856.

SIR, (Received August 2, 1856.)

I HAVE the honour to forward the enclosed copies of an interesting letter addressed to me by Mr. P. A. Bernard, partner in the firm of Hume, Bernard, and Co., doing business in this colony, on the subject of the Coolie immigration to Martinique. I thought it right to refer this letter to the Standing Committee of Immigration in the Council of Government; and whilst it would be premature to offer any comments of my own until those gentlemen have had an opportunity of considering the subject, it has appeared to me to be desirable to forward Mr. Bernard's letter for your information before I leave the colony.

I have already taken an opportunity to mention in my despatches this subject of the Coolie immigration to Martinique from Pondicherry, and it occurs to me that it might be convenient to call the attention of the Madras Government to this matter; for I believe there can be no doubt that Mr. Bernard is right in the impression that they come principally from the British territories.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, M.P., (Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Encl. in No. 21.

SIR, Trinidad, May 20, 1856.

HAVING been informed that notwithstanding the scanty supply of Coolie labourers now forwarded from India for the supply of the wants of this colony and Demerara, Indian immigration was being proceeded with in the French colonies of Martinique and Guadeloupe on an extensive and very satisfactory scale, I resolved on proceeding to the first-named of those two colonies to ascertain, by personal examination and inquiry, the correctness of the representations made to me. Enjoying the advantage of a personal introduction to, and having formed the acquaintance of, his Excellency the Count de Gueydon, and the leading members of his Excellency's Administration, I had an opportunity of deriving from the most authentic sources the information I felt anxious to obtain. My inquiries were cheerfully and very fully answered on every point. I was kindly furnished with the amplest details as to the cost at which the immigration was effected, the arrangements by which that cost was defrayed, the extent to which it was proposed to carry such immigration and the time required to effect it, the nature of the contract entered into by the home Government and the company or mercantile association conveying the Coolies from India to Martinique, the nature of the contract entered into between the immigrants and the planter to whom they are allotted after their arrival in Martinique, the local laws and regulations of police which govern and provide for the enforcing of such contract, and a variety of other details replete with interest. I must confess to a most poignant feeling of mortification on finding that on all or nearly all the points I have just enumerated, the

TRINIDAD.

Martinique arrangements were vastly preferable and superior to those of Trinidad, so much so in fact, that it appeared to me a duty I owed as well to my own interest as those of the inhabitants of this colony generally, to endeavour to bring under the notice of the local Government here, and the home Government in Downing Street, details that afford so many useful hints by which the labour obtained from this source may be rendered more effective and the cost at which it is obtained considerably diminished; and it is with this idea that I take the liberty of submitting the following details to your Excellency, not only because I feel assured that your Excellency must be as fully impressed as your noble predecessor with the conviction that Indian immigration is all important to the colony, and that you must consequently be animated with the most anxious desire to place it on a sound, satisfactory, and enduring basis, but because also it is in your Excellency's power and province where the inferiority of the arrangements here as compared with those of Martinique are such as can be rectified by local legislation, to bring the subject under the notice of the Legislative Council, whilst as regards those points which are beyond the control of local legislature, and the remedy for which must be sought elsewhere, it is still your Excellency's peculiar province and privilege to bring such amelioration under notice in the proper quarter, thus ensuring for them that early and anxious consideration which suggestions emanating from your Excellency must always command at the hands of Her Majesty's Government.

The emancipation of the slave population of Martinique and Guadeloupe took place, as your Excellency is aware, in 1848, and after a very short lapse of time it became evident that without an early and constant stream of immigration the cultivation of the staple products of those colonies must be entirely abandoned. The question was brought before the Government of the mother country, and the call for aid was promptly and liberally responded to by a grant of a million of francs (40,000*l.* stg.) to the two colonies to assist them in procuring immigrant labour. A contract was shortly after entered into by the home Government with a Captain Blanc to introduce four thousand Indian immigrants into the two colonies of Martinique and Guadeloupe. Captain Blanc was to receive a bounty from the home Government (out of the vote of a million of francs) of two hundred and fifty francs (250) for each adult, and one hundred francs (100) for all others. The immigrants to be classed in India. But besides this Captain Blanc was to receive (350) three hundred and fifty francs from the planters for each indented adult, payable immediately after the signing of each indenture, thus making Captain Blanc's remuneration in all (600) six hundred francs or (24*l.*) twenty-four pounds sterling. Captain Blanc brought on two cargoes of Coolies under these conditions to Martinique, but owing to embarrassments, arising, as I believe, out of other transactions, wholly unconnected with the undertaking I have just spoken of, he was not in a position to proceed any further with his contract. The Governor of the Colony, his Excellency Count de Gueydon,—to whom the inhabitants of Martinique are indebted for placing the laws which regulate in that colony the respective duties and responsibilities of employer and labourer on their present admirable footing—seeing the immense importance of maintaining the stream of immigration already opened, nobly resolved to incur considerable personal responsibility rather than it should be thus inopportunely stayed, and wrote to the Governor of Pondicherry, requesting him to send on a cargo of Coolies to Martinique, for the expense of which, he, the Count de Gueydon, held himself personally responsible. On this guarantee a cargo was sent on, the cost of which turned out to be only three hundred and fifty francs (350) for each Coolie, instead of six hundred (600) as paid to Capt. Blanc. The three hundred and fifty francs (350) were paid by the planters to whom the Coolies were indented. His Excellency then wrote to the Home Government, pointing out how much cheaper these immigrants had been obtained than those sent on by Captain Blanc, and urged on the Government the absolute necessity of taking effective steps to place Indian immigration on a proper footing. In consequence of his Excellency's recommendations, the Government re-apportioned the vote of a million of francs originally made to Martinique and Guadeloupe jointly, by assigning five hundred thousand francs to each, deducting, however, as was but fair, from the five hundred thousand francs for Martinique, the bounty paid to Captain Blanc on the two cargoes he had delivered. The residue of the five hundred thousand francs were placed to the credit of the Island of Martinique for immigration purposes.

During this interval Captain Blanc had entered into arrangements with Messrs. Le Campion and Theronde to relieve him from his contract, and these gentlemen sent a fourth cargo; but the inhabitants complaining, and with justice, of the charge of three hundred and fifty francs in addition to the bounty of two hundred and fifty francs paid from the funds voted by the Home Government, these gentlemen reduced that charge, on the importation of a fifth cargo, to eighty-five francs. Soon after, the business of Messrs. Le Campione and Theronde merged into that of the "Compagnie General Maritine," with whom, on the seventh of December last, the Minister for Marine and the Colonies, Admiral Hamelin, entered into a contract for the introduction into the Island of Martinique of nine thousand six hundred and nineteen Indian immigrants (making with the three hundred and eighty-one (381) already sent on, the fourth cargo, in all ten thousand immigrants). Copy of which contract I have the honour to enclose, and the principal conditions of which are as follows:—

1st.—The minimum number of immigrants introduced in all 1855 to be one thousand one hundred and nineteen (1,119), and two thousand in each of the years 1856–57, and 58. The maximum number for any one year not to exceed four thousand.

2nd.—At least one-eighth of the whole number introduced to be females, and between the age of fifteen and thirty years, under the penalty of losing the passage money of an adult actually imported for every such female short imported. The maximum number of females not to exceed one-sixth.

3rd.—In every case of non-introduction of the minimum number stipulated for in any one year, the Government to have the right of declaring the contract at an end, or to retain provisionally in its hands from the bounty payable on the immigrants actually imported, a sum equal to what would have been the bounty on the number of immigrants short imported, and to detain such monies until the deficiency had been made up by an increase in the next year's importations.

4th.—The Company to be at liberty to regulate themselves between the minimum and the maximum, so that the total number of nine thousand six hundred and nineteen Indian immigrants should be landed on or before the 1st May 1859.

5th.—The agreement entered into by the Coolies in India to be for five years certain.

6th.—The Company to be bound to import into Martinique, in the same vessel with the cargo of Coolies, a quantity of rice equivalent to five bags of one hundred and fifty pounds each, for each immigrant so introduced. Each planter to whom any lot of such Coolies should be assigned, to have the right to purchase two of such five bags for every Coolie so taken over, at the wholesale price of the Colonial market. The remainder to be disposed by the agent of the Company in the island to the best advantage.

7th.—In case of obstacles being thrown in the way of the departure of the Coolies from India by a foreign Government, or such impediments arising from the nature of arrangements made between such foreign Government and that of France, and if by either of these causes the General Maritine Company is obliged to suspend its proposed operations, the Company shall have no right to claim the intervention of the French Government in its favour, nor to any indemnity for loss thus sustained; on the other hand, such opposition arising, the Company not to be held bound to the fulfilment of its present engagement.

8th.—The Company to receive for each adult Indian landed at Martinique, after such Indian has been indented to the planter to whom he is allotted by the Government, a sum of two hundred and fifty francs. For each non-adult, one hundred francs. This payment to be subject, however, to a deduction of three per cent. for the benefit of the Navy Invalid Chest.

9th.—The classification of the Indians into adults and non-adults to be effected prior to embarkation in India, with the aid of the French administration there.

10th.—The bounty on immigrants who have contracted any sickness during the voyage will be paid for, but only after their recovery and their being indented to some planter. The sick immigrants will be cared for in the meantime by the Government, but at the expense of the Company.

11th.—The Company will have the right of demanding from every employer, to whom immigrants may be assigned by the Government, in addition to the two hundred and fifty francs paid by Government, a bonus of eighty-five francs for every adult immigrant so assigned, or at the option of the planter, shall receive, instead of such sum, three annual payments of two hundred kilogrammes or two hundred-weight of good merchantable sugar (bonne quatriem), delivered on the 31st March of each year, under the guarantee resulting from the Legislature on the subject.

12th.—The Company will also have the right of claiming and receiving from the employer the amount of any advances made by the Company to the immigrants in India, such advance not to exceed the maximum limit of fifty francs for each immigrant, and to be recovered by the planter from the wages of immigrants.

13th.—The Company can have no recourse against the Government as regards any default of the planter in any of the sum they may have contracted to pay.

14th.—Four ships, at the least, to be chartered by the Company every year, and provided with all proper accommodation for such a voyage, and one of these vessels to be a screw steamer of at least 800 tons burthen, inclusive of the 2-5ths of such tonnage applicable to the machinery and coals.

The undertakings of this Company as detailed in the foregoing agreement are, as I have been assured, in course of being carried out in the most prompt and creditable manner. The "Indian," of 705 tons, arrived at Martinique on the 10th March last, from Karikal, and landed six hundred and and forty-four (644) Coolies. Two other vessels are shortly expected, and the Company have advised the names and tonnage of several other ships which they propose to send from France by the 15th June next. I regretted much to find that the "Indian" had left for New Orleans the day before my arrival in Martinique, as I expected to learn from the captain the particulars as to where and how the Coolies were obtained in India, but Mr. Hervé, the agent of the Company, to whom I am indebted for a good deal of information, very frankly and kindly informed me that the firm in Pondicherry who act as agents for the Company send delegates into the interior to engage and collect them, and why are paid a sum per head after the Coolies are embarked at the port of sailing. The Coolies immigrating to Martinique, there can be no doubt, are from the British possessions; many told me that they came from Madras, and I saw several who had been to the Mauritius also. It seems to be the general impression at Mar-

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tinique that the Company will carry out its contract and land the number of immigrants agreed upon within the time specified.

Your Excellency will have gathered from the above details that the entire cost of introducing an adult immigrant into Martinique is three hundred and thirty-five francs, or thirteen pounds six shillings and sixpence (13*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*) sterling, of which two hundred and fifty franc (250frs.) are paid by the Government, and eighty-five (85) francs by the planter. But I should here add, that the two hundred and fifty francs so paid in the first instance by the Government, the planter reimburses the Government one hundred and fifty (150) francs, one-third in each twelve, twenty-four, and thirty-six months. The planter also pays the Government on receiving the indenture of each Coolie, thirty francs, which sum is termed "Droit d'Enrégistment," and he has also a "Droit proportionnel," of seven francs fifty centimes per annum, in half-yearly payments, being a tax of five per cent. on one hundred and fifty francs, the yearly wages of one indented Coolie. These two sums are, however, specially appropriated to assist in the "repatriement" or return voyage to India. In case of the Coolie's death, at any time during the period of indenture, the "droit proportionnel" ceases, but not the obligation to reimburse the one hundred and fifty francs, which are wholly irrespective of that contingency. Thus the total cost of the planter of securing five years' industrial services of one adult indented Coolie is as follows:—

	Frs.	Cts.
Bonus paid the Company in cash - - -	85	00
Bonus paid to the Government in three annual instalments -	150	00
Registration fee - - - - -	30	00
"Droit proportionnel" - - - -	37	50
Frs.	302	50

(he pays also the fifty francs advanced the Coolie in India, but this he recovers out of the Indian's wages). The cost of each adult indented Coolie to the Government is as follows:—

	Frs.	Cts.
Bonus paid by the Government to the Company - -	250	00
Less repaid by the planter when he is indented - -	150	00
Balance against Government - - Frs.	100	00

Thus the half million of francs voted by the Home Government, in aid of Martinique Emigration, will suffice to defray all the cost attending the introduction into Martinique of the first five thousand Coolies. In anticipation of the period at which that sum must be exhausted, the local Government puts by yearly, from the surplus annual revenue of the colony, a sum considered sufficient by the Governor to form a fund for the maintenance of Indian immigration; and at the end of the last year there stood to the credit of the immigration fund (inclusive of the balance yet unspent of the half million of francs originally voted by the Home Government) the sum of one million two hundred and sixty-three thousand francs(1,263,000), being more than double the original fund with which this immigration was commenced.

I now come to the excellent measures taken to ensure the fair and honest fulfilment of the contract entered into between the planters and the immigrants, and I may say here, as regards the condition of these strangers in Martinique, that whilst I was much struck with the orderly and quiet manner in which they performed their work on the estates, everything I saw around me conduced to convince me that their position was a very comfortable one, and of which they themselves appreciated the great advantage; for all the Coolies I saw appeared to me remarkably healthy and contented. The few sick ones I observed were receiving every possible care from a nurse provided on each estate for the special purpose; nor did I see in the whole course of my rides one of those walking skeletons too frequently met with in this island, and I certainly attribute the general healthy appearance of these people to the paternal nature of the laws by which they are governed.

The Coolie immediately on his arrival is indented to a planter for the full five years of his obligatory stay in Martinique, and these years, according to his contract, must be industrial years; they are not held as completed until he has worked five times three hundred and twelve days, the number of working days in each year. He receives wages at the rate of twelve francs (12) fifty centimes (50c.) per month, and by way of rations, there is delivered to him 1¾ lbs. of rice per day, and 2 lbs. of salt fish per week, with some salt. He is provided with medical attendance, and has two suits of clothing per annum. Only one half of his wages are payable monthly to him, the other half at the end of the year, when his account in the estate's book is balanced, the number of days' work being credited him, and due deduction made for sickness, leave of absence, and days of "retenue," (that is to say, a day's pay actually earned is forfeited for every day the Coolie has been absent without leave or sick from his own excesses, a charge which has an admirable effect in checking the habits of idleness and drunkenness, in which so many of the Coolies indulge here unchecked by any such excellent regulation). The account is

proved before the judge de paix, who initials every page of the journal to prevent fraud.

As regards the mode of distributing the Coolies, the Martinique plan appears to me decidedly preferable. Applications are sent in as may suit the planters. These applications are entered according to date, in a book kept by the immigration agent; and on the arrival of every ship, the Coolies are distributed according to the dates of application, without any reference to the number applied for by each party. After the distribution of each cargo, the list of applicants still on the book, and the number applied for, is published for general information. The Coolies are landed on arrival and placed in a depôt, where the agent divides them into lots of ten, and great pains are taken not to separate families and friends.

The only point in respect of which I need trespass on your Excellency's time, is in respect to the more favourable conditions accorded by the French Government with respect to the proportion between the number of emigrants conveyed and tonnage of vessels, carrying them. By the subjoined statement of arrivals of emigrant vessels at Martinique, your Excellency will perceive that the three first vessels brought as nearly as possible one emigrant for every ton of their register, or in exact numbers, there were one thousand one hundred and eighty-three (1,183) emigrants to one thousand one hundred and eighty-seven (1,187) tons, yet the mortality in these three cases was only one per cent. The fourth vessel the "Arnaud" of 370 tons register, brought three hundred and eighty-one Coolies without a single death during the whole voyage. The "Indian," which had a smaller number of Coolies in proportion to her tonnage than any other vessel, had a mortality of three and a half per cent. The difference in respect of the regulations of the two countries, as regards passengers and tonnage, must act very injuriously on this colony. The "Agincourt" which arrived here a few days ago, could only bring here, under existing regulations, three hundred and fifty Coolies. She might have carried nine hundred and fifty-eight to Martinique, and it is evident, from the results of Martinique experience on this head, without the least risk of any increased mortality.

I will now, with your Excellency's permission, sum up very briefly, the advantages which the planters of the island of Martinique enjoy over those of this colony, as regards Indian immigration. 1st.—The immigration as now set on foot under the contract of the Minister of Marine with the General Maritime Company, gives every reasonable assurance of being abundantly sufficient for all the wants of the colony, and will far exceed the extent of immigration to be looked for here; yet France possesses but a miserable "comptoir" in a corner of India, whilst the almost countless millions of the inhabitants of that country are subjects of Great Britain. 2nd.—The immigration is carried on at infinitely less cost to the local revenue. Five thousand Coolies will have been introduced before the munificent grant of the mother country is exhausted, and even then an annual tax to the extent of ten thousand pounds (10,000*l.*) will suffice to maintain immigration at the high figure for that island of two thousand Coolies per annum, without the colony becoming the debtor of any one for a single shilling. Yet here we have not only a very heavy debt already incurred, which it will take many years to liquidate, but an annual taxation (the rum duties) of about fifteen thousand pounds sterling devoted to immigration, whilst for the last three years—1854, 55, and 56—our annual importation of Coolies has not exceeded an average of five hundred and twenty (520) per annum. 3rd.—If the planter pays in Martinique somewhat more in the shape of bounty money, &c., &c., than here in Trinidad, still he gets infinitely more value for his money in the security of a long contract for five years, whilst the rate of wages is so much lower under the contract there, that at the end of five years the planter has not paid so much for his labour in bounty, "droit d'Enregistement," "droit proportionel" and wages, as here, in Trinidad, the planter has paid in wages alone. 4th.—The Martinique planter is not only ensured a contract for five years, but the means of enforcing all the terms of that contract rigidly to the letter, and according to one uniform code of interpretation, whilst here the enforcement of the fulfilment of many essential points in contracts entered into, is utterly impracticable or attended with more loss of time and litigation than the matter is worth, the interpretation put by one magistrate on the provisions of the law often differing very widely from the interpretation of the same provisions by another magistrate, and the planter is prevented from exercising that paternal control over the actions of his indented labourers which has proved so effectual in Martinique in preventing idleness and vagrancy, and checking the strong propensities of the Indian immigrant to habits of dissipation.

In conclusion, I must be permitted to observe that a good deal of the information I received from the public functionaries, to whom I addressed myself as to the laws and regulations of police, by which the due fulfilment of the contract entered into between the Coolies and their employers is enforced, naturally extended itself beyond the more immediate object of my inquiry, and put me in possession of a variety of interesting and satisfactory information with regard to the enforcement generally of all contracts entered into between labourers and employers, and the measures adopted for the suppression generally of vagrancy and mendicity throughout the colony, but which details I do not feel myself justified in intruding on your Excellency, in a communication that has already extended itself beyond the limits intended. I take the liberty, however, of transmitting herewith a small pamphlet containing the decrees and ordinances which regulate all engagements of labour entered into in the colony of Martinique, and the police regulations which ensure the fulfilment of these engagements. Both laws and regulations, it appears to me, offer

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many useful hints for the adoption of the government of this colony (more particularly those portions which relate to the suppression of vagrancy). I also send your Excellency herewith one of the small books known by the name of "Livret," which every hired servant (not under engagement for a longer period than one year), and whether employed in agriculture or domestic labour, is obliged to carry with him; and which, whilst it acts as a protection to the industrious labourer in the fulfilment of the contract he has entered into, is found a most effective check on the idle and ill-disposed, in curbing that propensity to abandon unfulfilled engagements voluntarily entered into and indisputably remunerative for the mere gratification of idle and self-injurious propensities, such as render so desultory and so little to be depended upon the labour of the native population of this colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. N. BERNARD.

To His Excellency Rear-Admiral Charles Elliot,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, Government House, May 31, 1856.

I AM directed by the Governor to thank you for your obliging communication of the 20th inst., and to acqaint you that he purposes to communicate it both to Her Majesty's Government and to the Local Legislature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SCOTT BUSHE,
Private Secretary.

Philip N. Bernard, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 75.) Trinidad, August 24, 1856.
(Received September 15, 1856.)
(Answered, No. 134, November 11, 1856, page 288.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a letter from the Agent-General of Immigrants recommending that any Coolies who apply to do so may be allowed to commute their return passages for grants of land equivalent to the money value of such passage. This principle was sanctioned in the 8th section of Ordinance No. 21 of 1850, but that Ordinance has been repealed by the law now in force, and it will therefore be necessary to receive your sanction to the arrangement proposed by Dr. Mitchell.

I would suggest, however, that it is not desirable that the Coolies should be settled separately from the rest of the population, neither could I recommend that they should be allowed grants in any other than well-settled districts, close to high roads, and otherwise favourably situated for constant supervision by the Government of the colony. I would further submit that the title should not be granted till they had been at least three years in the occupation of the land, and until a certain portion of it were fenced in and under some kind of cultivation.

The land, I should suppose, might be valued at the upset price fixed by Her Majesty's Government, viz., 2*l*. per acre, clear, however, of any charge for surveying.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 22.

Enclosure in No. 22.

SIR, Trinidad, August 15, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that two Coolies have applied to me to have their return passages commuted into grants of land of such extent as may be considered equivalent to them in money value. Since the repeal of the former immigration ordinances there is no provision for such grants, nor does it appear that any application has been hitherto made for them by immigrants from the east. It is, however, desirable, under many points of view, that every facility should be given to the Hindoo for naturalizing himself in the colony; and I would therefore suggest, with deference, the propriety of certain localities being set apart for the use of these settlers, or some fixed rule on the subject being promulgated, so that in case of the number of appli-

cants increasing, they might know beforehand where and on what terms they were ultimately to settle.

One of the parties in question is desirous of receiving his grant on the eastern coast, but such example would in all probability be rarely followed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY MITCHELL,
Agent-General of Immigrants.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

No. 23.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 96.) Trinidad, October 23, 1856.
(Received November 15, 1856.)
(Answered, No. 148, December 8, 1856, page 289.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a resolution of the Legislative Council relative to immigration from the Cape de Verde islands, together with a copy of the letter I directed to be written to Messrs. Eccles & Co., merchants and shipowners in this town, respecting the introduction of 150 labourers from thence.

Enclosure 1.
Enclosure 2.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 23.

Encl. 1 in No. 23.

"Resolved,—That his Excellency be requested to issue a proclamation, fixing the amount of bounty to immigrants from the Cape de Verde islands at fifty dollars a head, and that his Excellency be further requested to make arrangements for the introduction of one hundred and fifty labourers."—Carried.

Enclosure 2 in No. 23.

Encl. 2 in No. 213.

GENTLEMEN,

Trinidad, October 9, 1856.

WITH reference to what passed in Council on the last day of meeting, respecting the introduction into this colony of a number of immigrants, not exceeding in the whole 150, from the Cape de Verde islands, his Excellency would leave it to you to consider whether you would think it convenient to communicate with your correspondents in England upon the subject.

If they should be disposed to entertain the idea of bringing the immigrants on, the Colonial Government will be prepared, when the vessel is known to be inside the Gulf, to issue the necessary proclamation to insure to them their claim to the bounty money.

Your friends will of course take care not to repair to the Cape de Verdes for this purpose until they had ascertained that the cholera had completely disappeared from that group.

Of course it must be distinctly understood that all Cape de Verde immigrants brought in under this arrangements would be at the complete disposal of the Governor, as respects the parties to whom they should be assigned, and the particular districts of the island to which their location should be confined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS F. JOHNSTON,
Colonial Secretary.

Messrs. Wm. Eccles & Co.

No. 24.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 102.) Trinidad, October 25, 1856.
(Received November 15, 1856.)
(Answered, No. 4, Dec. 19, 1856, page 290.)

"I HAVE the honour and the great satisfaction before I leave this colony to transmit the accompanying Ordinance, No. 11, for promoting the education and industrial training of the children of Indian immigrants.

Appendix No. 19.
Page 465.

"The Attorney-General in his report has given an account of the circumstances to which the colony is indebted for this effort on behalf of the children

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of Indian immigrants, and I trust you may consider it suitable to signify to Mr. W. F. Burnley the grateful feeling which this wise act of munificence on his part has occasioned to the Government of the colony, and amongst all well-thinking persons in this community."

No. 25.

No. 25.

COPY of DESPATCH from Acting-Governor BROOKE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 2.) Trinidad, January 8, 1857.

SIR, (Received February 2, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit the returns of immigration for the quarter ended the 31st December 1856.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. W. W. BROOKE,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 25.

Enclosure in No. 25.

D.

RETURN of the Immigrants introduced into the Colony of Trinidad at the Public Expense who have embarked for their respective Countries during the Quarter ended on the 31st December 1856.

Date of Embarkation.	Name of Ship.	Destination.	Previously to Five Years' Residence at their own Expense			After Five Years' Residence at Public Expense.			REMARKS. (State the average period of Residence as nearly as it can be calculated, together with any other particulars of interest.)
			Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	
1856. 18 Oct.	Arabia	Calcutta	- -	- -	- -	177	48 5 Infants.	50	With few exceptions these Coolies had all resided ten years in the colony, and the greater part of the children were born in the island.
TOTALS	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	177	48	50	

(Signed) HY. MITCHELL,
Government Immigration Agent.

No. 26.

No. 26.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor KEATE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 9.) Trinidad, February 5, 1857.

SIR, (Received March 4, 1857.)

WITH reference to the copy of a report from the Colonial Emigration Commissioners, enclosing copies of two letters from Mr. Thompson, the emigration agent at Madras, transmitted in your Despatch, No. 150,* of the 9th December last, I have the honour to forward to you an extract from the Minutes of the Legislative Council of this island, dated the 19th January last, expressing its opinion of the expediency of authorizing the payment of a bounty and of an advance of wages to each adult Coolie emigrating from India to Trinidad.

* Page 290.

Enclosure.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., (Signed) R. W. KEATE.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 26.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Legislative Council, dated the 19th January 1857.

"Resolved,—That it is the opinion of the Council of Government that, with a view to encourage immigration from India, it is expedient that the immigration agents in India be authorized to pay by way of free gift to each adult Coolie immigrating to Trinidad a bounty of five rupees, and also to advance to him a further sum, not exceeding ten rupees, to be repaid from the wages of such Coolie."

No. 27.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor KEATE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 21.) Trinidad, April 7, 1857.
(Received May 2, 1857.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 53, June 24, 1857, page 294.)

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival of the ships "Adelaide," "Eveline," and "Sir George Seymour" from Calcutta with Indian immigrants.

The reports of the Agent-General of Immigrants and the Health Officer are herewith enclosed.

The number of Coolies received by these vessels are as follows, viz.:—

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.	
Adelaide - - -	206	54	9	5	11	
Eveline - - -	198	77	15	10	8	
Sir George Seymour -	228	67	14	3	—	
Total -	632	198	38	18	19	= 905

I take this opportunity to forward to you a copy of a letter I have received from the Chairman of the Committee of Council for Immigration, calling attention to the disproportion in the number of arrivals of vessels with immigrants from the East Indies in Trinidad and in Demerara,—to the desirableness of renewing immigration from China,—and to the expediency of securing a large immigration in the year 1858 in addition to whatever number of labourers may be introduced in the present year. A very great extension of the area of cultivation is now being made in this island, and it would be a subject of regret if any check were to occur to the enterprising spirit evidently at work. It has withstood the disappointment so strongly felt at the announcement that the immigration for the present season will fall so far short of the amount anticipated, and it is buoyed up by the hope that every exertion will be used to make up for it in the ensuing year.

Enclosure.

I beg leave also particularly to call your attention to the great mortality which has taken place on board the "Eveline" during its voyage. It seems to have occurred almost entirely in the Hoogley shortly after the sailing of the vessel from Calcutta. You may perhaps, therefore, think it desirable that some inquiry should be instituted into the condition of these immigrants at the time they were put on board.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) R. W. KEATE.

Enclosure in No. 27.

SIR, Trinidad, March 23, 1857.

THE Committee of Council for Immigration are desirous that you should submit to his Excellency the Governor the following statement, with a request that he will bring the subject under the consideration of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Up to this day the only vessels with immigrants from the East Indies which have reached this island are the "Adelaide," which arrived on the 17th instant with 280 immigrants, and the "Eveline," which arrived on the 22nd instant, after a voyage of only seventy days, with 317 immigrants.

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It appears, however, that between the 1st January and the 25th February of this year there had reached the colony of Demerara from the East Indies five vessels with 1,693 immigrants in all, viz.:—

			Immigrants.
On the 10th January, by the ship	"Wellesley," from Calcutta	-	359
„ 31st „ „	"Blue Jacket," Madras	- -	407
„ 2nd February „	"Bucephalus," Calcutta	- -	350
„ 24th „ „	"Sir Robert Seppings," Calcutta		250
„ 25th „ „	"Roman Emperor," „	-	327
	Total Immigrants	- - -	1,693

We understood that the rule laid down by the Colonial Office had been, that the despatch of immigrants to this island was to be in the proportion of two for three sent to Demerara.

The great disproportion which we have pointed out creates much dissatisfaction in this island, particularly at a time when the want of available labour is interfering greatly with the crop. Supposing even that the number sent to this island should in the course of the year equal two-thirds of those sent to Demerara, it will still remain to be explained why vessels have been despatched to Demerara at so much earlier a period than those sent to this colony.

The Committee are also desirous that the attention of Her Majesty's Secretary of State should be directed to the renewal of immigration from China.

It is well known that a large introduction of labourers from China to Cuba is now going on in English bottoms. Two vessels are announced to have reached Havana in the month of November last, the "Ruen Oliver," from Lantao, with 263, and the "Henry Miller" with 185 Chinese labourers.

The Chinese now in the island having acquired a knowledge of the English language, and become acclimatized, are the most industrious portion of our labouring population.

There is no employer of Chinese labourers who would not gladly accept an allotment of Chinese.

The Committee cannot insist too strongly on the vital importance of pressing on Her Majesty's Government the expediency of securing a large immigration in the coming year, 1858, in addition to whatever labourers may be introduced during the present year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD DARLING, Chairman.

No. 28.

No. 28.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor KEATE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 25.) Trinidad, April 22, 1857.

SIR, (Received May 18, 1857.)

Enclosure.
* A blank return.

I HAVE the honour to forward the returns of the Agent-General of Immigrants, letters C. and D.,* for the quarter ended 31st March 1857.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 28.

C.—RETURN of the Immigration on Bounty and otherwise, into Trinidad, during the Quarter ended on the 31st March 1857.

Name of Ship	Registered Tonnage.	Name of Surgeon.	Port of Departure.	Port of Arrival.	Date of Sailing.	Date of Arrival.	No. of Days on Voyage.	Emigrants embarked.					Births on Voyage.		Deaths on Voyage.				Emigrants landed.					State in each Case, whether on Bounty, or unassisted.	If on Bounty, state in each Case Rate in Sterling.	State in each Case the Total Amount in Sterling of Bounties paid.
								Adults.		Children under 14.		Total.	Males.	Females.	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Total.			
								M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
																									£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Adelaide -	639	J. Bury -	Calcutta	Port of Spain.	Dec. 16, 1856.	Mar. 20, 1857.	92	213	62	10	8	293	-	-	7	9	-	2	206	53	10	6	275	On Bounty.	10 17 0	2,896 19 0
								11 infants.							7 infants.				4 infants.							
Eveline -	814	J. Burrows	Calcutta	Port of Spain.	Jan. 10, 1857.	Mar. 22, 1857.	70	231	96	20	17	364	-	-	33	18	4	7	198	78	16	10	302	On Bounty.	10 16 6	3,128 8 6
								23 infants.							10 infants.				13 infants.							
TOTALS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	444	158	30	25	657	-	-	40	27	4	9	404	131	26	16	577	—	—	6,025 7 6

(Signed) HY. MITCHELL, Government Immigration Agent.

No. 29.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor KEATE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 41.) Trinidad, June 5, 1857.
(Received June 30, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 71, August 15, 1857, page 296.)

SIR,

THE subject of your Despatch, No. 34,* of the 1st May last, enclosing a copy of a report dated the 22nd April from the Emigration Commissioners, was occupying the attention of myself and of the Council of Government at the time it was received, and I have now the honour to request that the requisite instructions may be given for supplying this colony, if possible, with five thousand Indian immigrants in the year 1858.

* Page 292.

2. The mode in which it is proposed to defray the expense of introducing this large number of Coolies is shown in the annexed extract from the Minutes of the Legislative Council, being resolutions come to on the subject at an adjourned meeting on the 2nd instant. The sum of 82,970*l.*, calculated as required for the purpose, is thus estimated, viz.:— Enclosure 1.

	£
Cost of Immigration Department in Trinidad	2,520
Return passages of 300 Coolies	3,000
Clothing for ditto	200
Interest and sinking fund on loans for the year	12,000
Miscellaneous expenses in the island	250
Cost of introducing 5,000 Coolies in 1858 at 11*l.* per head	55,000
Expenses of Immigration Department in India, calculated at 2*l.* per head of number sent, say 5,000	10,000
	£82,970

Such is the demand for labour, and so great the readiness and determination which exists to make every exertion and every sacrifice to obtain it, that I am authorized to state the Council would have been prepared to make provision by special taxation for a still larger immigration if it had been thought there was any likelihood of procuring it; so much so, indeed, that at one time it was proposed to make application for one thousand Chinese, in addition to the number of Indians now asked for; and should Chinese emigration be re-opened, a supply from that source would still be very acceptable to the planters of this island.

3. As it will be necessary to pass at the proper time an ordinance for giving effect to these resolutions, should they meet with your approval and sanction, I take the liberty of requesting that I may be made acquainted as early as possible whether the full number of Coolies applied for is likely to be obtained, in order that, in accordance with the expressed wish of the Council, the sums to be raised from exceptional sources may be proportioned to the exigencies they are intended to meet. As showing both the correctness of the calculations made, and the bonâ fide nature of this large demand for immigrant labour, I have the honour of annexing a copy of a letter I have received from the Agent-General of Immigrants. Enclosure 2.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 29. Encl. 1 in No. 29.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Legislative Council, dated June 2, 1857.

"It being necessary to provide for the expense of introducing into this colony in the year 1858 five thousand immigrants from India, estimated at the sum of 82,970*l.*, against which will be available the following sums, viz.:—

From the balances in treasury	£12,000
Duties on rum	21,000
Fees on indentures	10,000
Fees on re-indentures	10,000
	53,000
Leaving a deficiency of	29,970
	£82,970

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"Resolved,—That such deficiency be made good by an export duty to be raised on all produce exported from the island, between the 1st day of January 1858 and the 31st day of December 1858, at the following rates, viz. :—

	s.	d.
On every hogshead of sugar - - - -	6	0
On every puncheon of molasses - - - -	2	6
On every puncheon of rum - - - -	3	6
On every bag or barrel of cocoa - - -	2	6

which is calculated to produce on—

40,000 hogsheads of sugar - - - -	£12,000
12,000 puncheons of molasses - - - -	1,500
2,000 puncheons of rum - - - -	375
25,000 bags of cocoa - - - - -	3,250
	£17,125
And by an increase of fees on indentures on new immigrants from 2*l.* to 4*l.*, which on 5,000 Coolies will give -	10,000
And on re-indentures where there is a change of employer from 3*l.* to 5*l.*, which on 1,000 labourers will give -	2,000
	£29,125

"Resolved,—That if it be ascertained that the number of immigrants to be introduced in the year 1858 will not reach the full number asked for, then that a proportionate reduction be made in the sums to be so raised."

Encl. 2 in No. 29.

Enclosure 2 in No. 29.

SIR, Trinidad, June 4, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that there are now in this colony, of new immigrants under indenture, 3,465; of these the time expires in the year 1858 of 1,350, leaving to be indented 2,115; to these add 500 daily expected, giving as total of new immigrants in the colony in 1857, on whom fees are to be received in 1858, 2,615.

I have to state further that the number of Coolies applied for in answer to the advertisement of 5th ultimo, is 7,300; of this number I calculate that at least 6,000 is a legitimate demand, in accordance with the means and expectations of the colony; and I have assured myself that the estates requiring them are well found in medicines, medical attendance, and house accommodations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY MITCHELL,
Agent-General of Immigrants.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

No. 30.

No. 30.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor KEATE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 52.) Trinidad, July 4, 1857.

SIR, (Received August 3, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to forward the returns of immigration for the quarter ending the 30th June 1857, Letter C.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 30.

C.

RETURN of the Immigration on Bounty and otherwise, into Trinidad, during the Quarter ended on the 30th June 1857.

Name of Ship.	Registered Tonnage.	Name of Surgeon.	Port of Departure.	Port of Arrival.	Date of Sailing.	Date of Arrival.	No. of Days on Voyage.	Emigrants embarked.					Births on Voyage.		Deaths on Voyage.				Emigrants landed.					State in each Case, whether on Bounty or unassisted.	If on Bounty, state in each Case Rate in Sterling.	State in each Case the Total Amount in Sterling of Bounties paid.
								Adults.		Children under 14.		Total.	Males.	Females.	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Total.			
								M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
																									£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sir George Seymour.	850	R. D. Stevenson.	Calcutta	Trinidad	Dec. 28, 1856.	April 2, 1857.	92	238	75	21	5	339	–	–	10	8	5	2	228	67	16	3	314	Bounty	12 10 0	3,608 5
								15 infants.							11 infants.				4 infants.							
Granville -	618	J. Ellis -	Calcutta	Trinidad	Feb. 16, 1857.	June 10, 1857.	110	154	100	25	14	293	1	–	11	13	4	5	143	87	21	9	260	Bounty	11 0 0	2,695 0
								16 infants.							4 infants.				12 infants.							
TOTALS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	392	175	46	19	632	–	–	21	21	9	7	371	154	37	12	574	—	—	6,303 5

(Signed) HY. MITCHELL,
Government Immigration Agent.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

Despatches from the Secretary of State.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 33.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 10, 1854.

I HAVE had under my consideration the Act of the Legislature of Grenada, enclosed in your Despatch, No. 37, of the 14th November last, No. 480,* "to alter the Law on Contracts with African and other Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration and the Promotion of the Industry of Immigrants."

* Vide Appendix No. 20, page 467.

2. The 12th clause of this Act enacts that all contracts made out of the colony with any labourer not being an African, for the term of five years, shall be binding, provided it be reduced to writing and signed by the labourer. Subsequent clauses of the Act materially qualify this provision in regard to "immigrants," meaning by that term persons introduced into the colony at the public expense; but with regard to labourers introduced by individuals from any part of the world except Africa, a contract for five years merely signed by the labourer is binding for the full period, and this without any provision to secure the fairness of the agreement or a reliable witness of the labourer's signature. This is an enactment which could not be consented to consistently with the principles which it has been felt necessary to uphold in every colony in the West Indies into which labourers are imported.

3. The remainder of the Act would appear to be drawn in great measure from a Trinidad Ordinance respecting Chinese, and from a Jamaica Act respecting immigrants generally; but the provisions of those laws being applied equally by the Grenada Act to all classes of immigrants, the result is to cause uncertainty in various respects as to the position in which the immigrant would really be placed. Into these details, however, I shall not enter, because it is in my power to propose to you a course which will render the examination of them unnecessary.

4. I regret to say that, on account of the first objection above stated, and the other imperfections in the measure, it will be unavoidable to advise Her Majesty to disallow this Act. But on the other hand Her Majesty's Government, after due consultation with the Directors of the East India Company so far as regards the case of Coolies, are now able to consent to various modifications of the terms on which labourers may be introduced into the West India colonies, which changes will, I hope, be found advantageous to the employers of labour, at the same time that they are just towards immigrants. They have been communicated to the Governors of Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad.

No. 175, 16 Jan. 1854.

I transmit to you for your information the extract of a Despatch from me to the Governor of British Guiana, in which they are explained, and I also enclose a draft in which I have caused them to be embodied in the form and language of legal enactments, in order that they may be more immediately available for use in case the Legislature should think proper to adopt them.

Vide page 1.

Draft.

Vide page 13.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

GRENADA.
No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 34.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 31, 1854.

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 33* of the 10th instant, I transmit to you herewith an order made by Her Majesty in Council, dated 29th instant, disallowing the Grenada Immigration Contract Act, No. 480, for the reasons stated in my Despatch.

* Page 342.

Enclosure.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Encl. in No. 2.

At the Court at Buckingham Palace the 29th day of March 1854.

Present,

The Queen's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Governor of Her Majesty's island of Grenada, with the Council and Assembly of the said island, did, in the month of October 1853, pass an Act, which has been transmitted, entitled as follows, viz., No. 480 :—"An Act to alter the Law of Contract with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration and the Promotion of the Industry of Immigrants."

And whereas the said Act has been referred to the Committee of the Lords of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to trade and foreign plantations, and the said Committee have reported as their opinion to Her Majesty that the said Act should not receive Her Majesty's royal confirmation: Her Majesty was thereupon this day pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to declare Her disallowance of the said Act, and the same is hereby disallowed accordingly. Whereof the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander-in-Chief for the time being of Her Majesty's island of Grenada, and all other persons whom it may concern, are to take notice, and govern themselves accordingly.

(Signed) C. C. GREVILLE.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(Separate.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 15, 1854.

WITH reference to my predecessor's Despatch, No. 33, March 10, 1854, in which you were informed that the question of contribution of 35 dollars by Coolie emigrants proceeding to the West Indies towards the payment of the expense of their return passage to India had been submitted to the Government of India, I have to acquaint you, for your information and guidance, that the Indian Government has assented to the proposal.

Mr. Caird, the agent in India, has been instructed to carry this into effect, in the case of all Coolies who may proceed to the West Indies after due notice shall have been given of this new condition, and has further been instructed to take measures for ensuring full communication of it to all intending emigrants.

All future emigrants will also be apprized that they will not be entitled to any public aid towards the expense of their back passages, unless claimed within eighteen months of the time of their becoming due.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

GRENADA.

No. 4.

No. 4.

No. 4. COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 2.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 3, 1855.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 7th ultimo, St. Lucia, No. 7, I transmit to you, in order that it may be communicated to the Lieut.-Governor of Grenada, a copy of a letter from the Committee for the Affairs of India, enclosing copy of a Despatch addressed to the Government of India, recommending that the Indian Act, No. 21 of 1844, sanctioning in certain cases the emigration of Coolies, may be extended to those colonies.

Enclosure. 24th Feb. 1855.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) G. GREY.

Encl. in No. 4.

Enclosure in No. 4.

SIR, India Board, February 24, 1855.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, stating that Her Majesty's Government are desirous of extending the immigration of Coolies from India to St. Lucia and Grenada.

Sub-Enclosure.

In reply, I am desired to enclose to you a copy of a Despatch to the Government of India, which the Board have approved; and I am at the same time to request that Her Majesty's Secretary of State may be informed that before the intended arrangement comes into operation, it will be necessary that the same provisions in behalf of the emigrants be made at St. Lucia and Grenada, as in the other colonies to which Indian labourers have heretofore been allowed to emigrate.

I am, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) T. N. REDINGTON.

Sub-Encl. in No. 4.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 4.

From the Court of Directors to the Governor General of India in Council.

WE transmit to you the copy of a letter which the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India have received from the Office of the Secretary of State for the Colonies; and as Her Majesty's Government are desirous that the Indian Act, No. 21 of 1844, sanctioning in certain cases the emigration of Coolies, should be extended to St. Lucia and Grenada, we request that the necessary steps may be taken for carrying the proposed measure into effect.

We have pointed out that before the proposed arrangement comes into operation it will be necessary that the same securities shall be provided for the welfare of the Coolies at St. Lucia and Grenada as in the other colonies to which they have heretofore been allowed to emigrate, and also for their eventual return to India.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 8.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 5, 1855.

I HAVE received and had under my consideration an Act passed by the Legislature of Grenada in the month of December last, and transmitted to me in your Despatch noted in the margin.

No. 10, 31st Jan. 1855.

This Act having been referred by the Queen in Council to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, that Committee have reported to Her Majesty in Council their opinion that the said Act should be specially confirmed; and I have the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of Her Majesty in Council, dated the 21st May 1855, approving that report.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) J. RUSSELL.

GRENADA.

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 21st day of May 1855.

Present,

The Queen's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Governor of Her Majesty's island of Grenada, with the Council and Assembly of the said island, did in the month of December 1854 pass an Act, which has been transmitted, entitled as follows, viz., No. 498 :—"For the raising of Money for the Purposes of Immigration."

And whereas the said Act has been referred to the Committee of the Lords of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to trade and foreign plantations, and the said Committee have reported as their opinion to Her Majesty, that the said Act should receive Her Majesty's special confirmation: Her Majesty was thereupon this day pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to declare her special confirmation of the said Act, and the same is hereby specially confirmed, ratified, and finally enacted accordingly. Whereof the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander-in-Chief for the time being of Her Majesty's island of Grenada, and all other persons whom it may concern, are to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

(Signed) WM. L. BATHURST.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor Sir WILLIAM COLEBROOKE.

(No. 5.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 30, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch, Grenada, No. 63* of 2nd October, forwarding a Despatch from the Lieut.-Governor, with an Act "to alter the Law "of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of "Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants."

* Page 358.

Her Majesty's confirmation of the Act will be conveyed to you by an early opportunity; but in order that no delay should occur in carrying out the wishes of the island Legislature on the subject of immigration, I have authorized the Emigration Commissioners to take immediate steps for ordering the conveyance to Grenada of a shipload of Coolie emigrants from India.

It appears to me desirable, for the sake of regularity, that you should at once transmit a formal request from the Lieut.-Governor in Council for the expenditure of the sum necessary for the conveyance of these Coolie emigrants.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir William Colebrooke, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor Sir W. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 8.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 17, 1855.

WITH reference to my Despatch, No. 5, of the 30th ultimo, I enclose an order made by Her Majesty in Council on the 7th instant, leaving to its operation the Grenada Act, No. 510, to alter the law of contracts with regard to immigrants, &c.

Enclosure.

It may be convenient that I should point out to you that the 13th Clause of this Act, which allows contracts of service to be made with Chinese for five years, is controlled by the 19th and 22d Clauses, which provide that every Chinese immigrant shall on his arrival be indentured for three years, and at the expiration of that period shall have the option of changing his master.

It was explained by Governor Wodehouse that in the British Guiana Ordinance, from which these clauses were taken, the contract for five years was merely intended to satisfy and not to bind the Chinese. And it was only on this explanation of the intended effect of the law (which I apprehend is also the legal effect) that the Ordinance was sanctioned.

GRENADA.

Unless, therefore, this be clearly explained to the Grenada Legislature, who have adopted it, the terms of this Act are likely to mislead them, as they may suppose that the 13th Clause conveys a more substantial power than is really either given or intended.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. Colebrooke, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 7.

Enclosure in No. 7.

At the Court at Windsor, the 7th day of December 1855.

Present,

The Queen's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Governor of Her Majesty's island of Grenada, with the Council and Assembly of the said island, did, in the month of September 1855, pass an Act which has been transmitted, entitled as follows, viz., No. 510:—"An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants."

And whereas the said Act has been referred to the Committee of the Lords of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to trade and foreign plantations; and the said Committee have reported as their opinion to Her Majesty that the said Act should be left to its operation: Her Majesty was thereupon this day pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to approve the said report. Whereof the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander-in-Chief for the time being of Her Majesty's island of Grenada, and all other persons whom it may concern, are to take notice, and govern themselves accordingly.

(Signed) C. C. GREVILLE.

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

SIR, Downing Street, March 19, 1856.

I HAVE to acquaint you that the question of the progressive proportion of female to male Indian immigrants to the West Indies has been under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I now proceed to make known to you the decision which has been arrived at on this question, as regards the seasons of 1856-7, 1857-8, and 1858-9.

1. The number of males to be introduced in 1856-7 must not under any circumstances exceed the proportion of one female to three male immigrants.

2. The number of males in 1857-8 must not exceed three times the number of females introduced in 1856-7.

3. For the season 1858-9 the number of males shall not exceed twice the number of females introduced in the previous season.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 9.

No. 9.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 6.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 29, 1856.

* Page 361. I HAVE received your Despatch, Grenada, No. 1,* of February 4th, forwarding a Despatch from the Lieut.-Governor of that island, with an extract from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Executive Council, containing the

† Page 345. request which, in my Despatch,† No. 5, of 30th of November last, I informed you that it was desirable should be made, for the authority of the Secretary of State for the expenditure of the sum necessary for the conveyance of Coolie immigrants to the colony.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 10.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 16, 1856.

I HAVE to acquaint you that I have had under my consideration the question of the conditions under which Coolie immigrants should be brought, during their residence in the West Indies for the second period of five years now sanctioned, consequent on the refusal of the Coolie to contribute, as you have already been informed, a sum of 35 dollars towards his return passage.

I am of opinion that whilst leaving the Coolie's first five years of industrial residence as prescribed by the existing law, the best course will be to enact that, as regards the sixth and subsequent years of the ten of residence, it shall be incumbent upon him, as a condition of his claim to a return passage, that he shall enter into contracts, each contract to be of not less than one year's duration, or that he shall pay 2*l*. 10*s*. for every one of those years during which he has not been under contract.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 14.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 31, 1856.

I TRANSMIT to you, for the information and guidance of yourself and of the Lieutenant-Governor of Grenada and St. Lucia, a copy of a letter from the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, having reference to emigration of Coolies to those colonies; and copy of a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners on that letter; with a copy of the reply returned thereto by my desire.

14th April 1856. Vide page 375. 14th May 1856. Vide page 378. 31st May 1856. Vide page 380.

I have to acquaint you that I approve of the several suggestions made by the Emigration Commissioners in their report.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 15.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 5, 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a letter from the Emigration Commissioners, in which they recommend, in compliance with the wish of certain merchants and planters, that Mr. Caird and the agent at Madras should receive in addition to their present salaries a fee of two rupees per adult on all the emigrants despatched by them to the West Indies, in any season, above the amount of 2,000; and that in the case of the Madras agent, that payment shall be in addition to his present fee of a rupee per adult on all emigrants shipped by him.

13th May 1856. Vide page 90.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

GRENADA.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 17.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 30, 1856.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 31st ultimo, Grenada, No. 14, I transmit for your information and that of the Lieutenant-Governor of Grenada a copy of a letter from the India Board, and its enclosures; from which you will perceive that the Court of Directors have agreed, under certain conditions, to the proposition made with reference to the introduction of Coolies into Grenada during the next season.

14th June 1856.
Enclosure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Hincks,
&c. &c.

Encl. in No. 13.

Enclosure in No. 13.

SIR, India Board, June 14, 1856.

WITH reference to your letter of the 31st ultimo, relative to the immigration of Coolie labourers from India to St. Lucia and Grenada, I am directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to transmit to you, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a letter which they have received from the Court of Directors of the East India Company, agreeing to the emigration in question on certain conditions.

12th June 1856.
Sub-Enclosure 1.

I am also desired to enclose to you a copy of the Despatch to the Governor-General of India in Council, referred to in the above letter, which has received the approval of the Board, and will be forwarded without delay to India.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. LEACH.

H. Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

Sub-Encl. 1 to No. 13.

Sub-Enclosure 1 to No. 13.

SIR, East India House, June 12, 1856.

I HAVE laid before the Court of Directors Mr. Danby Seymour's letter, dated 6th instant, with its enclosures from the Colonial Office, regarding the arrangements to be made for the immigration of Indian labourers into the islands of St. Lucia and Grenada.

The Court observe that Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies has undertaken to communicate to the Governments of St. Lucia and Grenada his recommendation that certain modifications should be introduced into the arrangements made for immigration into those colonies. The Court are not altogether satisfied of the sufficiency of the proposed changes, particularly as regards the want of an officer specially charged with the care of the Coolies while in the colony, and to the securing to the Coolies whose term of service has expired a return passage to India within a reasonable time. They are desirous, however, that if possible, effect shall be given to the wishes to the Colonial authorities for the despatch of a certain number of labourers in the present season to the islands now in question, and they have accordingly prepared the accompanying draft of a Despatch to the Government of India on the subject, which they direct me to submit for the approval of the Board of Commissioners.

The Court, however, referring to the doubt expressed above as to the sufficiency of the alterations proposed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere, and to the impossibility of receiving any further representations from the Government of India on the subject previously to the commencement of emigration, if it is to commence in the present season, think it necessary to remark, that even if the arrangements now proposed for the care of Indian labourers in St. Lucia and Grenada are acquiesced in for this season, such acquiescence must be regarded as temporary, and as conditional on the adoption by the Colonial Legislature, not only of the modifications proposed by Mr. Labouchere, but also of any further alterations which, in the opinion of the Government of India, may be absolutely necessary to secure the welfare of the Coolies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES C. MELVILL.

The Secretary, India Board.

Sub-Encl. 2 to No. 13.

Sub-Enclosure 2 to No. 13.

DRAFT of a Despatch from the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Governor-General of India in Council.

WE forward to you a copy of the correspondence which has taken place with Her Majesty's Government on the subject embraced in this correspondence, together with a copy of the Act passed by the Legislature of Grenada for the encouragement of immigration into that island.

GRENADA.

You will observe that Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies has undertaken to communicate to the Governments of St. Lucia and Grenada his recommendation that certain modifications shall be made in the arrangements for immigration into those islands, with a view of meeting the objections taken by you to the Ordinance of the Legislature of St. Lucia. We are not altogether satisfied of the sufficiency of the changes proposed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere, more especially of those which have reference to the charge of the Coolies while in the colony, and to the securing to those Coolies whose time of service has expired, a return passage to India within a reasonable time. While, therefore, we are desirous that, if possible, the wishes of the Colonial authorities should be met for the despatch in the present season of a certain number of labourers to the islands in question, we must leave it to you to determine, after communication, if necessary, with the protectors of emigrants and the emigration agents, whether the arrangements, modified as now proposed, are sufficient to secure the welfare of those who may proceed thither.

We have intimated to Her Majesty's Government that any present acquiescence in the arrangements now proposed must be regarded as temporary, and conditional on the adoption by the Colonial Legislature of such alterations as you may consider absolutely necessary to secure the welfare of the Coolie emigrants.

No. 14. No. 14.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., to Governor Hincks.

(No. 18.)

Sir, Downing Street, June 30, 1856.

It having been represented to me that the rule laid down by my Circular Despatch* of the 19th March, as regards the proportion of female to male immigrants to be introduced into the West Indies, might limit in a manner not intended the total number of immigrants allowed for each year, I have to acquaint you that I do not propose to maintain the proportion between the males of one year and the females of the year preceding; but that for the future, the proportion to be enforced should be between the females and the males of each successive year as follows:—In the seasons of 1856–7 and 1857–8 not less than one female to three male immigrants; for the season of 1858–9 not less than one female to two males—leaving the proportion for subsequent seasons to be determined by future instructions.

* Page 346.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 15. No. 15.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Earl of Clarendon to Governor Hincks.

(Circular.)

Sir, Downing Street, August 6, 1856.

I transmit for your information the copy of a Despatch which has been addressed to the Earl of Clarendon by Her Majesty's Consul at the Cape de Verde islands, stating that 328 emigrants have left those islands for Demerara, and that others will probably follow.

26th June 1856.

Vide page 94.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) CLARENDON. (In Mr. Labouchere's absence.)

No. 16. No. 16.

Copy of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., to Governor Hincks.

Sir, Downing Street, December 8, 1856.

I transmit for your information the copy of a Report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with the copy of a letter from Mr. Caird, enclosing an amended scale of stores and medicines for Coolie ships, and some printed regulations for the guidance of masters of ships carrying Coolies.

26th Nov. 1856.

Vide page 107.

GRENADA.

I have instructed the Commissioners to authorize the emigration agents in India to give effect to Mr. Caird's suggestion that a gratuity of one rupee should be paid to masters of Coolie ships for every immigrant landed alive, provided the mortality on the voyage does not exceed two per cent., and a further bonus of 10*l.* in the case of no death occurring.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 38.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 9, 1856.

24th Nov. 1856. Enclosure 1. 3rd Dec. 1856. Enclosure 2.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a letter from the Assistant Secretary to the Treasury, with the copy of a Report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, relative to the means of providing funds for the emigration of Coolies to Grenada and St. Lucia.

As regards Grenada, you will observe that funds can be provided; but that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury are not enabled to raise any money on account of St. Lucia, owing to the suspension by the Ordinance No. 6 of 1856 of duties imposed by the Ordinance No. 2 of 1854.

It will, therefore, be necessary that the Ordinance No. 6 of 1856 be repealed; and I have to instruct you to take measures for recommending the Legislature of that island to pass an enactment for the purpose.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

P.S.—Since writing this Despatch I have learnt that the Government of India have declined giving their sanction to the emigration of Coolies to St. Lucia. I shall hope to communicate with you on the subject by the next mail, but in the meantime it will not be necessary for you to take any steps in respect of Ordinance No. 6 of 1856.

Encl. 1 in No. 17.

Enclosure 1 in No. 17.

SIR, Treasury Chambers, November 24, 1856.

WITH reference to Mr. Elliot's letter of 20th September last, on the subject of the liabilities that the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners are now incurring on account of emigration from India to Grenada and St. Lucia, the payments for which are to be made from the amount of the Imperial Guaranteed Loan, under the Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 130, apportioned to the colonies, and requesting that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury will, in case of any sudden demand for money for this service, advance the same to the Emigration Commissioners, until the amounts so apportioned are raised, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, that they have no funds at their disposal from which they could conveniently direct advances to the Emigration Commissioners for this service; but assuming the correctness of the statement of the Commissioners, that the money to be paid for the conveyance of the Coolies will not be required for two or three months after the freights have been taken up, their Lordships will probably be enabled to provide the requisite funds from the proper source, in sufficient time to meet the demands for those freights.

Should this not be the case, it would remain to be considered whether the Emigration Commissioners might not be authorized to advance the requisite funds out of monies in their hands not immediately required on account of emigration to other colonies, charging the colony for the service of which such monies are advanced with interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum, which is the rate payable on the sums raised under the guarantee of the Act.

I am further to request that you will state to Mr. Labouchere that this arrangement can only be carried out as far as regards Grenada, in which colony the necessary Act has been passed providing funds to meet the charge for the interest and sinking fund, to the extent of 7,000*l.*

No. 498 of 1854. As regards St. Lucia, Mr. Labouchere is aware that the duties imposed by Ordinance No. 2 of 1854, to meet the charge for the loan, have been suspended by Ordinance No. 6

of 1856, which formed the subject of the letter of this Board of 15th instant; and their Lordships would observe, that so long as such suspension is in force, they would not be authorized to raise any money on account of that island.

I have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

Enclosure 2 in No. 17.

Encl. 2 in No. 17.

SIR, Emigration Office, December 3, 1856.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 2nd instant, enclosing the copy of a letter from the Assistant Secretary to the Treasury, relative to the mode of providing funds for the emigration of Coolies to St. Lucia and Grenada.

2. With regard to the latter island, it appears that there is no difficulty, and that in case a ship should be taken up, we shall be placed in a position to defray our liabilities when they arise, either from the proceeds of the guaranteed loan, or, if that loan shall not have been raised, from other funds in our hands, which can be applied to that purpose on the terms sanctioned in Sir C. Trevelyan's letter.

3. But it seems that owing to the suspension at St. Lucia of certain duties imposed by Ordinance No. 2 of 1854, the Lords of the Treasury are not in a position to raise the loan, or to enable us in any manner to meet the liabilities which Mr. Caird may have incurred on behalf of this island.

4. In Mr. Caird's last letter, dated 6th October, he did not mention tha he had taken up any Coolie ship, either for St. Lucia or Grenada, and it is therefore most unlikely that any ship can be despatched from Calcutta to either colony much before the end of November, or by consequence arrive in the West Indies much before the end of February; and the obligation to pay the freight would hardly become absolute till the middle of April. There is, therefore, ample time for the Legislature of St. Lucia to reimpose the necessary duties, and place the Home Government in a position to raise the loan before this Board can be called upon to pay any money.

5. We would suggest, therefore, that a copy of Sir C. Trevelyan's letter should be transmitted to the Governor of St. Lucia, with instructions to lose no time in procuring the enactment of the law required for this purpose. If, as we presume, the enactment of such a law may be relied upon, there will be no necessity for sending out any fresh instructions to Mr. Caird; but if it is doubtful whether the funds will be forthcoming at the proper period, it would be safest to direct that gentleman by the Marseilles mail of the 9th instant not to charter any ship for St. Lucia, unless he has already done so. We are bound to observe, however, that such directions are not likely to be of much use, as they could only reach him about six weeks before the close of the emigration season.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 42.)

SIR, Downing Street, January 7, 1857.

I HAVE received your two Despatches named in the margin, accompanied by an Act passed by the Legislature of Grenada, No. 536, amending the law of contracts with regard to immigrants, and a copy of the Regulations passed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council respecting the lodging, medicine, medical aid, and food to be allowed to the immigrants.

No. 44, 25th Aug. 1856, Page 362.
No. 56, 31st Oct. 1856, Page 363.

I enclose an Order made by Her Majesty in Council on the 29th ultimo confirming the Act, and I approve of the code of Regulations. At the same time I beg to call your attention to the observation made in the last paragraph of the Report from the Emigration Board, of which a copy is enclosed.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

GRENADA.

Enclosure 1 in No. 18.

Encl. 1 in No. 18.

At the Court at Windsor, the 29th day of December 1856.

Present,

The Queen's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Governor of Her Majesty's Island of Grenada, with the Council and Assembly of the said Island, did in the month of September 1856 pass an Act, which has been transmitted, entitled as follows:—

No. 536. "An Act to amend the Act intituled An Act to alter the Law of Contracts "with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the "general Regulation of Immigrants."

And whereas the said Act has been laid before Her Majesty in Council, together with a letter from the Right Honourable H. Labouchere, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to the Lord President of the Council, recommending that the said Act should receive Her Majesty's special confirmation: Her Majesty was therefore this day pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to declare Her special confirmation of the said Act, and the same is hereby specially confirmed, ratified, and finally enacted accordingly. Whereof the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander-in-Chief for the time being of Her Majesty's Island of Granada, and all other persons whom it may concern, are to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

(Signed) C. C. GREVILLE.

Encl. 2 in No. 18.

Enclosure 2 in No. 18.

SIR, Emigration Office, December 17, 1856.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 6th instant, enclosing with its covering Despatch the authenticated copy of an Act passed by the Legislature of Grenada in last September, intituled "An Act to amend the Act intituled An Act to alter the Law of "Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigrants, and for "the general Regulation of Immigrants."

2. This Act is passed to give effect to various suggestions made in our report of the 14th May last, which was transmitted to the colony. Those suggestions were based on the observations made by the Indian government on the Immigration Ordinance of St. Lucia, and were as follows:—

"(1.) That Coolie ships for Grenada should carry one interpreter for every 100 persons on board.

"(2.) That provision should be made by Ordinance for remitting to India the property of deceased Indians, and for granting to Coolies a compensation of six dollars for every six months intervening between their application to be sent back to India and the actual offer of a back passage.

"(3.) That the authorities should be requested to state the terms on which Indians would be indented, and the prices of clothing and necessaries.

"(4.) That the Indian Government should be requested to state the holidays to which the different classes of Indians are considered entitled in their own country, in order that the West Indian Governments may make corresponding arrangements."

3. The present Act (besides repealing and re-enacting a previous law which made the provision required by the Secretary of State respecting the second five years of the Coolie's industrial residence) makes the requisite provision for compensating Coolies for delay in furnishing them with back passages, and enables the Governor in Council to make regulations for securing the property of Indians dying in the colony, and for allowing holidays to the Indians on occasion of their religious festivals.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor of Grenada in the covering Despatch states that the price of rice is from 2*d.* to 3*d.* a pound, and of fish 2½*d.*; that linens and cottons are about the same price as in England, and that the Coolie is entitled to 10*d.* a day, and an acre at least of provision ground. He encloses also regulations which require the employers to furnish them with huts, every married man having a separate room for himself and his wife. The same regulations require that certain medicines shall be kept on the estate, that a medical man shall attend the immigrants once a week, that when sick they shall receive such diet and medicine as he shall require, and that wages shall be paid in cash.

5. It appears to us that this Act may properly be confirmed, but that it should be communicated with the enclosures to the Court of Directors.

6. The regulations respecting holidays and the property of deceased persons will of course be made when the immigrants arrive, and with reference to their habits, and the information requested from the Indian Government.

7. The Lieutenant-Governor's statement of wages and prices, and a copy of the code of regulations, we shall forward to Mr. Caird, requesting him to inform us whether he has any suggestions to make respecting the lodging and medical care of the Coolies. The only observation which occurs to us is, that the accommodation (Article 1) should be such as to enable the employer, if necessary, to appropriate one room of sufficient dimensions for the reception of the sick, and also a specific allowance of superficial square feet for

every soul lodged in the hut. It will, of course, be competent to the proper officer to enforce this under the present regulations; but it would have been more satisfactory if it had appeared on the face of the rules.

We have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

No. 19.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 51.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 3, 1857.

I ENCLOSE extracts from a Letter addressed by the Government of India to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, in which that Government, while giving a provisional permission of emigration to Grenada, require certain modifications to be made in the existing regulations before the emigration is permanently sanctioned.

12th Sept. 1856. Extracts, Page 384.

Learning from a Report of the Emigration Commissioners, which has been already communicated to the Lieutenant-Governor of Grenada, that the duties of the immigration officer are performed in a great measure by the stipendiary magistrates, the Indian Government desire to receive copies of the instructions under which these officers act. In order to give full information on this head I have to request that the Lieutenant-Governor furnish me with copies of the instructions given to those officers, and an account of the duties performed by them in respect of the supervision of the liberated Africans formerly imported into Grenada, and also of the instructions which it is proposed to issue to the immigration officer and stipendiary magistrate with regard to the reception of Coolie ships, and the allotment and superintendence of the immigrants after their arrival in the colony.

You will perceive that the Indian Government are also strongly of opinion that the Immigration Agent should, as in British Guiana, be an officer receiving a higher rate of salary.

I am of course fully aware that the salary paid in British Guiana supplies no precedent whatever for Grenada. But as I apprehend that the superintendence of immigrants after their location, which in 1849 and the following years was performed by the stipendiary magistrates, will hereafter mainly fall on the Immigration Agent, it is evident that the duties of that officer in visiting the Coolies, in ascertaining their wants, and in settling disputes between them and their employers, will require considerable trouble and judgment. On this point, therefore, I concur with the Indian Government, and I am of opinion that the Legislature should be moved to make his emolument 150*l.* per annum from the period when the first ship with Coolie immigrants arrives in the colony.

The provision that Coolies should receive at least three months' notice (as specific as the nature of the case admits) of the period at which they will receive their return passages cannot have any effect in Grenada for ten years, but it may be as well to insert it in any code of regulations which may be framed in respect of immigration.

I shall cause it to be explained to the Indian Government that the provision which enables the Coolie to pay $35 towards his return passage instead of performing a second five years of industrial residence is really a boon, and not, as the Indian Government imagine, a disadvantage; and I do not, therefore, think it necessary that any change should at present be made in this part of the immigration law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Hincks,
&c. &c.

GRENADA.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 61.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 1, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you the accompanying Return, which has been received from Mr. Caird, of the Coolies despatched from Calcutta to Grenada, from October 1856 to March 1857.

I have &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 20.

Enclosure in No. 20.

Name of Ship.	Tonnage.		Contract price.	Date on which placed at disposal of Agent at Calcutta.	Date of Departure.	Embarked.						Statute Adults.
						Adults.		Children.		Infants.	Total Souls.	
	Old.	New.				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.			
Maidstone -		1,000	11 11 0	26 Jan.	27 Jan.	268	68	18	10	11	375	850

No. 21.

No. 21.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 64.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 25, 1857.

Extract. 22nd April 1857. Vide page 129. 2nd May 1857. Vide page 131. 25th May 1857. Vide page 132.

I TRANSMIT for your information the enclosed extracts from a Report of the Emigration Commissioners on various points connected with Coolie emigration to the West Indies, together with the copy of a further report from them upon the subject.

I also annex a copy of the answer which I have directed to be returned to those reports, from which you will see how far I have authorized the Commissioners to carry out the several suggestions they have made.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 68.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 12, 1857.

2nd June 1857. Vide page 133.

I TRANSMIT to you the copy of a report from the Emigration Commissioners, enclosing a letter from Mr. Caird relative to the treatment of Coolies.

I request that you will call the attention of the Lieut.-Governor of Grenada to the remarks of the Commissioners as to the rates of wages obtainable in the several colonies.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 23.

No. 23.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 77.)

SIR, Downing Street, August 15, 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 5th June, Grenada, No. 21,* transmitting copy of a Despatch from Lieut.-Governor Kortright supporting an application made by the House of Assembly of that island for an additional 1,000 Indian labourers.

* Page 367.

GRENADA.
Enclosure.
15th August 1857.

I transmit to you a copy of a letter I have directed to be addressed to the Land and Emigration Commissioners, from which you will perceive that I have authorized them to instruct the agents in India to despatch one ship to Grenada during the coming season, which will probably convey about 350 immigrants.

I request that you will inform me as to the manner in which it is proposed that the expense for this service should be met.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Encl. in No. 23.

GENTLEMEN, Downing Street, August 15, 1857.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 18th ult., having reference to the number of Coolie immigrants to be sent to the West Indies during the coming season.

It appears to Mr. Labouchere, after due consideration of the applications received from the several colonies, that the following are the numbers which should, if possible, be sent:—

1st. One ship to St. Lucia.
2d. One ship to Grenada.
3d. 3,000 immigrants to British Guiana.
4th. 3,000 immigrants to Trinidad.

As regards Grenada, the Governor-in-Chief will be instructed to report whether the expense which will be incurred is to be provided for from funds to be raised in the colony, as in the case of the cost of the immigrants who arrived in the ship "Maidstone," or out of the 7,000*l.* apportioned to Grenada out of the Imperial Guaranteed Loan.

And as regards Trinidad, Mr. Labouchere proposes to inform the Governor, in answer to his Despatch of the 5th June, No. 41, and in answer to the application from the Council of that island for 5,000 Coolie immigrants, that as 3,000 immigrants for British Guiana and one ship for St. Lucia have already been ordered, and one ship for Grenada now authorized, it is not at all probable that the agents in India could be enabled to despatch an additional 5,000, and that he has therefore directed you to instruct the agents to send to Trinidad 3,000 only, stating at the same time, that should the Council nevertheless pass an ordinance for raising the requisite funds, the agents in India should be further instructed to send the additional 2,000, should they be able to do so after satisfying the requirements of the other colonies.

The agents should, of course, be informed that in the event of their not being able to obtain the full number of Coolies for British Guiana and Trinidad, they are to despatch those they can procure in equal moieties.

I have, &c.

The Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.

(Signed) T. F. ELLIOT.

No. 24.

No. 24.

Copy of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 81.)

SIR, Downing Street, August 27, 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 5th June, Grenada, No. 20,* transmitting a copy of a Despatch from Lieut.-Governor Kortright on the subject of the regulations connected with Coolie immigration into that island.

* Page 366.

I have forwarded a copy of your Despatch and of its enclosures to the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, with an expression of my hope that the explanations they contain will be satisfactory to the Court of East India Directors and to the Government of India.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Despatches from Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke and Governor Hincks.

No. 1.

No. 1.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke to the Right Hon. Sir G. Grey, Bart.

(No. 10.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, January 31, 1855.
(Received March 6, 1855)
(Answered, No. 8, June 5, 1855, page 344.)

Sir,

Vide Appendix, No. 21, Page 474.

I have the honour to lay before you an authenticated transcript of an Act of Grenada, entitled "An Act for the raising of Money for the Purposes of Immigration," together with the Attorney General's report thereon, and the correspondence which has passed on the subject.

Enclosure 1. No. 103. 18th Nov. 1854.

No. 257. 30th Nov. 1854. Enclosure 2.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. Sir G. Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 1.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

(No. 103.)

Sir,

Government House, Grenada, November 18, 1854.

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency a copy of a bill passed by the Council and Assembly of Grenada, entitled "An Act for the raising of Money for the Purposes of Emigration," together with a copy of the Attorney-General's report thereon.

2. In the Duke of Newcastle's Despatch of the 9th January last, marked Grenada, No. 24, in which the disapproval of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury of the Act passed last year to raise a guaranteed loan not exceeding 25,000*l.* was notified, his Grace requested that in transmitting any amended Act passed on this subject, your Excellency would supply him, for their Lordships' information, with a general report upon the financial state of the colony, and upon the particulars of the provision made for the interest and sinking fund upon the loan.

3. With regard to the financial state of the colony, I would in the first place generally refer your Excellency to the report upon the Blue Book for Grenada for 1853, which I had the honour to enclose in my Despatch, No. 40, of the 4th May ultimo, in which I entered fully into the subject. In that report I distinguished between the revenue raised under permanent enactments and by taxes voted from year to year, and I stated the former to consist of duties upon the importation of goods, and tonnage and water dues on vessels clearing from the harbour; and that to these were to be added certain miscellaneous receipts in aid of revenue arising from market fees and rents, and fees and fines collected and imposed by the magistrates. Among the taxes granted by annual enactment I mentioned that there was a duty levied on rum consumed within the colony, the proceeds of which were primarily applicable to the advancement of immigration, but that portions of them had been taken from time to time in aid of the general revenue, and that it had become so habitual with the Legislature to do so, that I considered myself justified in looking upon the fund thus raised as practically forming a part of the ordinary ways and means of the colony. I stated, too, that an additional tax of this description had been imposed for general purposes in the Supply Bill for the present year. This was done with a view of meeting the deficiency arising from the various causes alluded to in the report in the revenue for 1853, and was fixed at 4*d.* per gallon. Some small additions were made at the same time for the same purpose to the annual assessed taxes, but the permanent sources of revenue were left in the same condition as previously.

4. The continued falling off in imports and tonnage duties in the early part of the present year having caused much inconvenience to the Treasury, the assessed taxes not being payable till towards its end, it was determined, among other measures calculated to meet the emergency, to consolidate and amend the laws relating to and to increase the duty on rum, and on the 1st July an Act was passed to that effect, which imposed a duty of 1*s.* per gallon on all rum consumed within the colony, two-thirds of which were to be applied to general and one-third to immigration purposes. The amount of duty payable on licences to retail spirituous liquors is also increased by the Act, and that which is of

the greatest importance, it has been passed no longer in the shape of a temporary measure requiring re-enactment from year to year, but as an addition to the permanent resources of the colony. I observe that in its estimate of ways and means preparatory to framing the Supply Bill for the year 1855, the House of Assembly calculated the receipts from this source, that is to say, from the 8*d.* per gallon, or two-thirds of the whole duty imposed, at 2,000*l.*, which I consider a very low estimate. The remaining one-third, therefore, upon which the interest and sinking fund of the proposed loan of 7,000*l.* is to be based, may be taken at 1,000*l.* per annum at least, while at the same time the general revenues of the colony which are to be primarily chargeable in case of deficiency in the particular item set apart for the purpose have been permanently improved to an amount double that of the item so set apart, and the latter is no longer liable, as was the case formerly, to be dipped into for meeting casual deficiencies in the general revenues.

5. The Act, however, did not come into operation sufficiently early in the present year to relieve the Treasury of all the inconvenience it had experienced from the falling off of the import and tonnage duties, and, as great additional charges have also been incurred in consequence of the cholera, there will be still a deficiency at the end of the year, nor does it appear that the rum duties will be sufficient of themselves to balance the revenue with the increased expenditure necessarily to be incurred in the ensuing year owing to an augmentation of the police force, the re-establishment of the militia, consequent upon the withdrawal of the troops and other contingencies; to provide for these additional items of outlay, it was proposed to throw the expense of maintaining the roads, for which a sum of not less than 1,850*l.* has hitherto been annually granted out of the general revenue, upon special sources, and a Bill has already passed the House of Assembly for organizing a system of statute labour commutable by a money payment for this purpose; but I regret to say that this Bill has not yet been taken up by the Legislative Council, owing, I understand, partly to the late period of the Session at which it reached the Board, and partly to its members entertaining some vague and totally ungrounded fears of outbreaks on the part of the peasantry. They have decided, therefore, to wait until the Militia Act, which is in preparation, shall be in force. As, however, the Bill as passed by the Assembly would hardly have come practically into operation for two or three months, no great inconvenience will result from this delay, and in the interim the requisite steps may be taken for organizing the machinery by which the Act is to work.

6. To meet the deficiency in the present year's revenue and to pay off the heavy cholera charges, it was originally proposed to place a duty in the ensuing year upon licences to exercise any profession, trade, calling, or occupation, and to keep dogs and guns; but of these only the last has been adopted, the temptation to have further recourse to the immigration fund having apparently proved too strong to be withstood. A sum of 3,000*l.* will therefore be taken from it, in the shape of a loan, should the Bill which I shall forward to your Excellency by this occasion, in a separate Despatch, for granting an aid to Her Majesty by rates, taxes, and assessments, become law. This will very nearly absorb the whole remaining proceeds of the immigration fund raised under the old annual Acts, and it will therefore be the last time that this objectionable expedient can be relied upon for replenishing the Treasury. In this respect, whatever it may be in others, the measure is not to me a subject of regret; the fund which is now being created under the new Consolidated Act, and on which the interest and sinking fund of the proposed loan are charged, being placed beyond the immediate control of the Legislature. I have little doubt that if deficiencies should still arise recourse will in future be had to some such direct internal sources of revenue as those which were intended to be introduced as part of the financial arrangements of next year. Perhaps it was in vain to expect that further taxation would be imposed, or a better financial system fully inaugurated, so long as this reserve fund was available; but I regret the postponement even for another twelve months only of these new arrangements, as it may bring with it delay in the adoption of another measure which I have much at heart, namely, a revision of the customs laws of the colony, and a reduction in its tariff of import duties upon articles of food. The projected withdrawal, however, of the remaining portion of the imperial customs establishments will necessarily draw attention to and throw light upon these subjects, and I understand that a joint committee of the Council and Assembly has been appointed to consider and report upon them; the question therefore will not in the meantime be lost sight of.

7. Having thus referred to the changes which have taken place in the financial system of the colony since the date of my report on the Blue Book for 1853, and to those which are in progress or in likelihood of being introduced, I will endeavour to place before your Excellency, in a succinct form, their immediate results, as exhibited in the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the ensuing year. The whole expenditure is taken at 18,000*l.*, inclusive of the cholera charges and all arrears of the present year, but exclusive of any provision for the maintenance of the roads. Of this amount nearly 8,700*l.* are incurred under permanent laws, and to this may be added about 1,000*l.* more, as being for purposes so fully sanctioned by long custom as to come almost into the same category, the remainder being for contingencies of a more or less fluctuating character. To meet this expenditure a fixed revenue may now be calculated upon, arising from the sources I have already indicated, of about 11,500*l.* (irrespective of the 1,000*l.* solely applicable to immigration), being considerably beyond the amount of the fixed expenditure. Of the remaining sum of 6,500*l.*, 3,000*l.*, being chiefly for arrears and cholera charges, is met by the loan from the old immi-

GRENADA.

gration fund, leaving 3,500*l.* to be covered by the assessed taxes granted for the year, which are expected to produce about 3,700*l.* I think it not unlikely on the one hand that the expenditure of the year may somewhat exceed the estimated amount, but on the other I have already stated my opinion that the proceeds of the rum duties have been placed too low. The Act, however, has passed so lately, and is so different to the former Acts on the same subject, that it must be looked upon, in the first instance, as somewhat experimental, and its operation will have to be narrowly watched. Upon the whole I have great hopes that if no unforeseen contingencies arise, the general result will be a pretty equal balance of revenue and expenditure at the close of next year, and I have every reason to expect that during its progress the foundations of further improvements in the financial prospects of the colony will have been laid, so as to afford still greater security for the due payment of the interest upon the loan proposed to be raised by the present Bill, and for the formation of the sinking fund by which it is eventually to be liquidated.

I have, &c.

His Excellency
Governor Sir Wm. Colebrooke,
Barbadoes.

(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

Encl. 2 in No. 1.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

(No. 257.)

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbadoes, November 30, 1854.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 103, of the 18th instant, enclosing copy of a Bill passed by the Council and Assembly of Grenada, entitled "An Act for the raising of Money for the Purposes of Immigration," with a report from the Attorney-General thereupon.

As the Bill is in conformity to the instructions contained in the Duke of Newcastle's Despatch, of the 9th January last, you have my authority to assent to it.

Vide Despatch, No. 8, dated 31st Jan. 1855.

In regard to the observations contained in your Despatch, respecting the finances of the island, I beg to refer you to my Despatch, No. 259, of this day's date.

I have, &c.

His Excellency
The Lieut.-Governor of Grenada.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to the Right Hon. Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Bart., M.P.

(No. 63.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, October 2, 1855.

(Received October 31, 1855.)

(Answered, No. 5, November 30, 1855, page 345.)

SIR,

Enclosure 1.

Appendix, No. 22, page 476.

Enclosure 2.

Enclosure 3.

Enclosure 4.

Enclosure 5.

Enclosure 6.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Grenada, with an authenticated transcript of an Act passed by the Lieutenant-Governor of that island, "to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants;" also copy of the reports of the Attorney-General and copies of the correspondence I have held with the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of this enactment.

I beg to invite your attention to the wish of the Lieutenant-Governor, as expressed in his Despatch, No. 98, of the 8th instant, that early instruction may be given to him of the confirmation of this Act, if approved, with definite instructions respecting the ports from which emigration may be permitted, and the probable expense for which the local Government will have to provide from the funds at its disposal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. Sir W. Molesworth, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 2.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

(No. 80.)

SIR, Government House, Grenada, July 27, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency a copy of a Bill passed by the Council and Assembly of Grenada, intituled "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general

Regulation of Immigrants," together with a copy of the Attorney-General's Report thereon.

2. This Bill completes, so far as legislation is concerned, the design with which the "Act for the raising of Money for the Purposes of Immigration" was passed in December last. Having been carefully framed in conformity with the British Guiana Ordinance No. 7 of 1854, which has been confirmed by the Crown, and with the draft Immigration Act transmitted by the Duke of Newcastle in March 1854, I trust it will be found free from those blemishes which caused the former Act, passed in 1853, for the encouragement of immigration, to be disallowed by Her Majesty in Council.

3. By the 4th clause of the Bill the Governor in Council is empowered to name by proclamation the ports from which emigration on bounty may be permitted; and as in the event of its becoming law the planters no doubt will be eager to avail themselves of its provisions, it will be of importance that I should be furnished, with as little delay as possible, with the instructions necessary for my guidance in doing so.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Sir W. Colebrooke, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2.

Encl. 2 in No. 2.

(No. 326.)

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbadoes, August 4, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 80, of the 27th ultimo, enclosing copy of a Bill, intituled "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," together with the Report of the Attorney-General thereupon.

As this Bill has been carefully framed in conformity with the Ordinance of British Guiana of 1854, which has been confirmed by the Queen in Council, and with the draft Immigration Act transmitted by the Duke of Newcastle in March 1854, I see no objection to your assent being given to it, on the introduction of the amendments in regard to the proportion of females to male immigrants which is to be required in future emigration from India to Mauritius, and also to the West India colonies, in regard to* which I have to refer you to the Secretary of State's Despatch, St. Lucia, Circular of the 23d June 1855, enclosed with my Circular Despatch of the 24th ultimo.

* Page 373.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, Grenada.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Enclosure 3 in No. 2.

Encl. 3 in No. 2.

(No. 82.)

SIR, Government House, Grenada, August 9, 1855.

I HAVE perused very carefully the Secretary of State's Despatch to the Governor of Mauritius, copy of which was transmitted to me in your Excellency's Circular Despatch of the 24th July last, and which is further referred to in your Excellency's Despatch, No. 326, of the 4th instant, in which my assent is authorized to be given to the Bill lately passed by the Council and Assembly of Grenada, "to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," on the introduction of the amendments in regard to the proportion of female to male immigrants which is to be required in future emigration from India to the West India colonies as well as to Mauritius.

2. Very great delay has already taken place in maturing this Bill, and another season may be lost in case of further delay intervening before it is considered and allowed by Government.

3. Lord John Russell intimates that in 1856 the proportion of females to males is to be 25 in 100, or one woman to three men, and that the proportion of women is to be progressively increased as may be thought proper by the Secretary of State. Any legislation on the subject, therefore, must necessarily leave the proportion of the sexes to be fixed from time to time by the Governor, as is now provided. If Coolie immigration were in the hands of individuals a law might be required for regulating it in this respect, but it is in the hands of Government acting through its agents in India, and the Secretary of State appears to have every necessary authority for the purpose. I observe, too, that in the correspondence alluded to the Secretary of State does not ask for any legislation on the subject, nor do the Emigration Commissioners, who merely suggest that the Secretary of State should send instructions to Mr. Caird as to the proportion of males and females to be forwarded.

4. For these reasons, which I take the liberty of submitting, I earnestly request that your Excellency will permit me to assent to the Immigration Bill in its present shape, or

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rather that I may consider the Despatch, No. 326, of the 4th August as conferring upon me that authority.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. Colebrooke, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

Encl. 4 in No. 2.

Enclosure 4 in No. 2.

(No. 327.)

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbadoes, August 28, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 82, of the 9th instant, in which, with reference to mine of the 24th July and the 4th instant, you request that in pursuance of the authority conveyed to you by the latter to assent to the Immigration Bill, it may not be required that further delay should be incurred to effect amendments in the Bill relative to the proportion of females to males in the future introduction of immigrants, as required by the Secretary of State's instructions contained in the former Despatch.

I do not, under the circumstances, object to your assent being given immediately to the Bill; but from the importance attaching to the principle of ensuring the nearest practicable approximation to an equality of the sexes, I consider it advisable that the Secretary of State's Circular Despatch of the 23d June last should be duly promulgated.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, Grenada.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Encl. 5 in No. 2

Enclosure 5 in No. 2.

(No. 97.)

SIR, Government House, Grenada, Sept. 8, 1855.

YOUR Excellency's reply to my Despatch, No. 82, of the 9th ultimo, acceding to my request to be permitted to assent to the bill passed by the Council and Assembly of Grenada, "to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," without the amendment recommended to be introduced into it in your Despatch, No. 326, of the 4th August, not having reached me at the time I expected, owing to an accidental derangement in the steam communication among the islands, the object I had in view in making that request has been frustrated.

In the interval the Legislature met, and I took advantage of that circumstance to propose to it to adopt your Excellency's recommendation, which has been done. I have therefore assented to the bill in its amended shape, and I have now the honour to transmit to your Excellency an authenticated copy of it, in duplicate, together with copies of the Attorney-General's original report upon it, and of a supplemental report in which he has stated his opinion of the sufficiency of the clause which has been added to it to meet the requirements of the case.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. Colebrooke, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

Encl. 6 in No. 2.

Enclosure 6 in No. 2.

(No. 98.)

SIR, Government House, Grenada, Sept. 8, 1855.

A CLAUSE having been introduced into the Act for the encouragement of immigration, embodying the amendment recommended by your Excellency in your Despatch, No. 326, of the 4th ultimo, by which it is rendered conformable to the instructions of the Secretary of State in regard to the proportion of the sexes required hereafter to be maintained in all emigration from the East Indies, and an authenticated copy of the Act, as assented to, being ready for transmission by the present mail, I am anxious to lose no time in bringing to your Excellency's notice the great importance which the planters of Grenada attach to their being put in a position to avail themselves of the provisions of the Act in time to obtain a supply of Coolie labour for taking off the next crop.

2. Unfortunately there has already been much delay in carrying the measure through its several stages, and I fear a considerable interval must still elapse before a notification can reach me of its confirmation by Her Majesty in the event of its meeting with the approval of the Home Government, and before I can receive the requisite instructions to enable me, as authorized by the Act, to name by proclamation the places from which emigration to this colony on bounty is to be permitted. Nor would it be expedient that the rate of bounty should be formally fixed before I am apprized of such confirmation. The parties, however, who are most likely to stir themselves in the matter and to offer vessels to the Emigration Commissioners for the transport of Coolies to the island are resident in England. There can therefore be no positive necessity for their waiting till these formalities

have gone through in Grenada; and, with regard to the rate of bounty, they have my assurance that it will be calculated according to the actual expense of importation,—one half of which is to be borne by the planters and one half by the colony. It will no doubt be about the same as is incurred in the case of immigration to Demerara, Trinidad, and St. Lucia, and of the amount of this, many of these parties must be already aware.

3. There is now in the treasurer's hands a sum of 1,246*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* applicable to the interest and sinking fund on the loan of 7,000*l.* authorized to be raised by Act No. 218 under the guarantee of the British Government, and to any preliminary expenses which it may be necessary to provide for. I have already received applications for no less than 340 immigrants, and I feel assured that I could place on different estates at least 400 immediately on their arrival in Grenada. So far as I have yet been able to learn the average cost of transportation from the East to the West Indies the funds which are thus available are more than sufficient to cover all the outlay which a first supply of labour to this extent would occasion.

4. It would be very desirable that I should be furnished as early as possible with definite instructions respecting the ports from which emigration may be permitted, and the expense out of the Colony which the local Government will have to provide for, so far as the same may be ascertainable.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. Colebrooke, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 1.)

Windward Islands, Barbadoes, February 4, 1856.

(Received March 6, 1856.)

(Answered, No. 6, March 29, 1856, page 346.)

SIR,

WITH reference to your Despatch, No. 5,* of the 30th November last, directing that a formal request should be transmitted for the expenditure necessary for the conveyance to Grenada of Coolie emigrants, I have now the honour to forward to you the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Grenada, with an extract from the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Council of that island containing the request.

* Page 345.

Enclosure 1. No. 4. 18th Jan. 1856.

Enclosure 2.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) F. HINCKS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 3.

(No. 4.)

SIR,

Government House, Grenada, January 18, 1856.

REFERRING to the Despatch of the Secretary of State of the 30th ultimo, marked Grenada, No. 5, copy of which was transmitted to me in your Excellency's Despatch of the 27th ultimo, No. 369, notifying that the confirmation of the "Act to alter the Law with regard to Immigrants," would be conveyed to me by an early opportunity, and stating that the Emigration Commissioners had been authorized to take immediate steps for ordering the conveyance to Grenada of a shipload of Coolie emigrants from India, I have the honour to forward to your Excellency for transmission to the Secretary of State an extract from the minutes of the proceedings of the Executive Council of the colony, and in accordance with its resolution to request that the Secretary of State may be pleased to order the expenditure of the sum necessary for the conveyance of such Coolie immigrants.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

Thursday, 10th January 1856.

Present,

His Excellency Robert W. Keate, Lieutenant-Governor;
His Honour Chief Justice Davis;
The Honourables Mr. Attorney-General Snagg, Matthew Davis, Henry James Ross, and John Brown.

Read at the Board a Despatch from Mr. Secretary Labouchere to Governor Sir William Colebrooke, dated Downing Street, 30th November 1855, marked Grenada, No. 5, intimating that Her Majesty's confirmation of the Act "to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general

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Regulation of Immigrants," would be conveyed to the Governor by an early opportunity, and that in order that no delay should occur in carrying out the wishes of the Legislature of Grenada on the subject of immigration, the Secretary of State had authorized the Emigration Commissioners to take immediate steps for ordering the conveyance to Grenada of a shipload of Coolie immigrants from India. Whereupon it was resolved that a formal request be made to the Secretary of State for the expenditure of the sum necessary for the conveyance of the said Coolie immigrants.

(Signed) SAMUEL MITCHELL,
Acting Clerk of Executive Council.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 42.)

Windward Islands, Barbadoes, August 21, 1856.

SIR, (Received September 15, 1856.)

I HAVE the honour to lay before you an authenticated copy of an Act of Grenada, entitled "An Act to amend the Act intituled An Act to alter the "Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of "Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," together with the report of the Attorney-General thereupon, and the correspondence which has passed on the subject of the Act.

Appendix, No. 23, page 489.

No. 66. 10th July 1856.

No. 48. 22nd July 1856.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 4.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

(No. 66.)

SIR, Government House, Grenada, July 10, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Excellency a copy of a Bill passed by the Council and Assembly of Grenada, intituled "An Act to amend the Act intituled An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," together with a copy of the Attorney-General's report thereon.

This Bill has been prepared and passed in exact conformity with Mr. Labouchere's instructions of the 16th April 1856, and occasion has been taken at the same time of enacting in express terms the construction to be put on the 13th clause of the Coolie Immigration Act, as explained by the Secretary of State's previous Despatch of the 17th December last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES WALKER.

His Excellency Governor F. Hincks, Barbadoes.

Encl. 2 in No. 4.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbadoes, July 22, 1856.

I HAVE to authorize that your assent may be given to the Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Act intituled An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," and which was transmitted in your Despatch No. 66 of the 10th instant.

I have, &c,
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

His Excellency James Walker, Esq.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 44.)

Windward Islands, Barbadoes, August 25, 1856.

SIR, (Received September 15, 1856.)

HAVING transmitted copies of your Despatches noted in the margin,* relative to the immigration of Coolies to Grenada, to the Administrator of the Government of that island, I have received in acknowledgment thereof a Despatch from that officer, copy of which I have now the honour to forward to you.

* Grenada.
No. 14, 31st May 1856.
„ 15, 5th June „
„ 17, 30th „ „
„ 18, „ „ „
No. 81. 9th Aug. 1856.

Enclosure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 5. GRENADA.

(No. 81.)

SIR, Government House, Grenada, August 9, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt from your Excellency of four Despatches, of the numbers and dates noted in the margin, relative to the immigration of Coolies to Grenada. Encl. in No. No. 39, 5th July 1856. „ 40, 12th „ „ „ 51, 31st „ „ „ 52, „ „ „

2. The first of these Despatches covers a long correspondence between the Indian authorities as to the regulations under which the Coolies should be permitted to come here, followed by a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, for which, on behalf of the island, or at least that large body of sugar producers who consider that all their future prospects hang on an increased supply of labour, I am bound to express my thanks. The planter has been buoyed up with the hope of this immigration for a long time past. He has evinced the utmost readiness to adopt any and every suggestion which has been offered to him on the subject by Her Majesty's Government. He has just finished the smallest crop ever made in the island in any one year; and the appearance of things for the forthcoming season are not a whit more promising. To be told now that nothing has been done towards this hopeful scheme of supplying him with additional labour, that so much time has been exhausted in raising and discussing points of detail, would have been most disheartening if we had not been able at the same time to inform him that the Immigration Commissioners have come to its rescue, and that backed by the authority and influence of the Secretary of State an earnest appeal has been made to the Indian Government to permit the prompt despatch to this island of one or more Coolie vessels.

3. With regard to the suggestions of the Emigration Commissioners, I can answer for it that there will be no objection on the part of the Legislature to adopt them, and every other reasonable condition which may be considered necessary. By this opportunity I forward to your Excellency for Her Majesty's pleasure an Act on this very subject, which has been passed in deference to the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, and I will instruct the Attorney-General to prepare another enactment for the purpose of securing the remittance to India of the property of deceased Coolies, and for granting to Coolie immigrants a compensation of six dollars for every half year which may intervene between their application for a return passage and the actual offer of one; though I confess to some little shame in making such frequent calls for legislative action without any apparent attainment of the object for which they have hitherto readily responded to.

4. I will forward at the same time a memo. of the wages and other advantages which the Coolie will receive on his arrival, and of the prices of provisions and other necessaries.

5. In another report of the Emigration Commissioners enclosed in Mr. Labouchere's Despatch, No. 15, of the 5th of June last, it is recommended that a fee should be paid, in addition to their salaries, to the emigration agents in the East Indies, on the despatch of each immigrant to these islands.

6. By the Grenada Immigration Act of the 8th of September 1855 your Excellency will see that the Governor is authorized to pay the officers who may be employed abroad in this service "in proportion to the number of emigrants who may be sent to the colony." There will, therefore, be no difficulty in assigning to the agents the capitation fee which has been proposed by the Commissioners.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Governor F. Hincks, Barbadoes. (Signed) JAMES WALKER.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 56.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, October 31, 1856.

(Received December 1, 1856.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 42, January 7, 1857, page 351.)

WITH reference to my Despatch, No. 44, of the 25th August last, and to that of the Administrator of the Government of Grenada, which accompanied it, I have now the honour to forward to you an authenticated copy of an Act passed by the Legislature of that island, entitled "An Act to amend the Act "intituled An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and "for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of "Immigrants," together with the Report of the acting Attorney-General thereupon, and the correspondence which has passed on the subject of this enactment. Appendix, No. 24, page 490. No. 86, 9th Sept. 1856. No. 61. 15th Sept. 1856. No. 95, 6th Oct. 1856.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) F. HINCKS.

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Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

(No. 86.)

Government House, Grenada, September 9, 1856.

SIR,

Encl. 1 in No. 6.
No. 39, 5th July.
„ 40, 12th „
„ 51, 31st „
„ 52, 31st „

REFERRING once more to your Excellency's four Despatches, of the dates and numbers noted in the margin, and to the one which I had the honour to write to you on the 9th ultimo, No. 81, I now enclose an Act which was passed at the recent sitting of the Legislature, and in which your Excellency will find that effect has been given to all the additional instructions or suggestions of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the proposed Coolie immigration into this island.

2. I enclose also the usual report from the Attorney-General on the Bill.

3. If your Excellency should be pleased to authorize me to assent to this Bill, I will lose no time in putting it into proper shape for transmission for Her Majesty's pleasure, and I will be prepared to accompany it with the information required by the Emigration Commissioners in their report to Mr. Merivale, of the 14th May last, as to the rate of wages and other advantages to be accorded to the Indian labourer on his arrival, with a statement of the average prices here of such articles as will likely be necessaries to him.

4. I hope to have ready for transmission to your Excellency, at the same time, the rules authorized under the Act of 8th September 1855 to be made by the Governor in Council respecting the medical care and maintenance of the Coolies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. WALKER.

His Excellency
Governor F. Hincks.

Encl. 2 in No. 6.

Enclosure 2 in No. 6.

(No. 61.)

Windward Islands, Barbadoes, September 15, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's Despatch, No. 86, of the 9th instant, forwarding, together with the report of the Attorney-General thereupon, the copy of a Bill which has passed the Council and Assembly of Grenada, for amending the Immigrants' Contract Act of that island, and I have to authorize you to give your assent to this enactment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

His Excellency
James Walker, Esq.

Encl. 3 in No. 6.

Enclosure 3 in No. 6.

(No. 95.)

Government House, Grenada, October 6, 1856.

SIR,

REFERRING to my Despatch, No. 86, of the 9th ultimo, I have now the honour to transmit to your Excellency an authenticated copy of an Act passed by the Legislature of this colony, intituled "An Act to amend the Act entitled An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," together with the Attorney-General's report thereon.

Sub-Enclosure.

I also enclose a copy of the regulations passed by me in Council on the 8th September last, respecting the medical care and maintenance of Coolies; and with reference to the information required by the Emigration Commissioners in their report of the 14th May last, I have to state that the Indian labourer will be entitled on his arrival here to receive at the rate of 10*d.* per day, and provision grounds of at least one acre; that the prices of linens and cottons are much the same as they are in England, and that the average price of rice is from 2*d.* to 3*d.* per lb., and of fish 2½*d.* per lb.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES WALKER.

His Excellency
Governor F. Hincks.

Sub-Encl. to No. 6.

Sub-Enclosure.

Grenada.

Regulations respecting the Lodging, Medicine, Medical Aid, and Food, to be provided for Immigrants, the Periods within which the Wages of such Immigrants shall be paid, &c., made by the Governor in Council on the 18th Day of September 1856, under the Authority and in pursuance of the 36th Clause of the Act passed on the 8th Day of September 1854, and entitled "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants."

1. There shall be provided on every estate whereon are immigrants proper houses for their lodging. Such houses shall be floored, and be impervious to rain. They must be of such a size as to afford sufficient accommodation, divided into apartments for the number of

immigrants lodging therein, without overcrowding. A separate room, properly enclosed, shall be given to every married immigrant with his wife. These houses must be white-washed with lime water once a year, and kept clear of stagnant water, and animal and vegetable matter undergoing decomposition in the neighbourhood.

2. On every estate whereon are located immigrants there shall be kept for the use of such immigrants when sick the following medicines, &c., with proper scales and weights and measures, for weighing and measuring such medicines, together with such other medicines, medicaments, and materials as shall be required by the medical practitioner attending the estate for the use of the immigrants on such estate.

Table of Medicines:—

Æther Sulphuric.	Laudanum.
Aloes.	Blister Plaster.
Aquæ Ammonia.	Quinine.
Tartarized Antimony.	Adhesive Plaster.
Caustic.	Colocynth.
Jalap.	Scammony.
Rhubarb.	Cream of Tartar.
Calomel.	Sulphate of Copper.
Senna Leaves.	Epsom Salts.

3. When any immigrant shall be sick there shall be given to such immigrant every day during such sickness, at the expense of the employer, proper and sufficient food and nourishment, cooked and suited to the state of health of such immigrant.

4. A medical practitioner shall be engaged to attend the immigrants on each estate by contract by the year, and to visit such immigrants at least once a week.

5. A book or register shall be kept on each estate wherein the medical attendant shall be required to enter at the time the date of each visit, the disease or malady of each immigrant patient, and the prescription in such case; and also to note the quality and quantity of food or nourishment to be given daily to each such patient. And the manager or overseer of the estate shall make a memorandum in such register, at least once a week, stating in each case whether or not the patient has had the medicine or received the treatment prescribed, and what quality and quantity of food or nourishment has been each day given to such patient.

6. Wages shall be paid to the immigrant at least once a month in cash, when all arrears shall be paid up in full; and it shall not be competent or lawful to the employer, or any person acting for or under him, without the consent of the immigrant, to deduct from such wages any account, let off, or sum of money whatever, for or on account, of any rum, provisions, or other articles supplied from any shop, whether such shop be kept by such employer or any other person.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAMUEL MITCHELL,
Acting Clerk of Council.

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 11.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, March 9, 1857.

SIR, (Received April 2, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copy of a Despatch from the Lieut.-Governor of Grenada from which you will learn that the instructions which were given by you to the Immigration Commissioners, with the view of giving effect to Mr. Caird's suggestion, have met the concurrence of the Executive Council of that Colony. No. 8. 24th Feb. 1857. Enclosure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 7.

Encl. in No. 7.

(No. 8.)

SIR, Government Office, Grenada, February 24, 1857.

HAVING laid before the Executive Council your Despatch, No. 78, of the 15th January last, covering copies of two Despatches from the Secretary of State, with their enclosures, relative to the means of providing funds for the emigration of Coolies to Grenada and St. Lucia, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Board has approved of the instructions given by the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Immigration Commissioners, to authorize the emigration agents in India to give effect to

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Mr. Caird's suggestion that a gratuity of one rupee should be paid to masters of Coolie ships for every immigrant landed alive, provided the mortality on the voyage does not exceed two per cent., and a further bonus of 10*l.* in the case of no death occurring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
Barbadoes.

No. 8,

No. 8.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 20.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, June 5, 1857.
(Received June 30, 1857.)
(Answered, No. 81, August 27, 1857, page 355.)

SIR,

No. 30, Executive. 22nd May 1857. Enclosure.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from Lieut.-Governor Kortright, containing his reply to the propositions made by the Government of India to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, with regard to the regulations respecting Coolie immigrants, and which were communicated to me in your Despatch of the 3rd March, Grenada, No. 51.

2. I trust that this Despatch will be considered satisfactory, especially with reference to the salary of the Immigrant Agent at Grenada, and that the Court of Directors of the East India Company and the Government of India will believe that there is every possible disposition on the part of the Lieut.-Governor and both branches of the Legislature of Grenada to accede to their wishes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 8.

Enclosure in No. 8.

(No. 30.)

SIR, Government Office, Grenada, May 22, 1857.

I HAVE laid before the Executive Council your Excellency's Despatch, covering copy of a Despatch from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State, enclosing extracts from a letter addressed by the Government of India to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, requiring certain modifications to be made in the regulations respecting Coolie immigrants before permanently sanctioning emigration to Grenada.

2. The opinion of the Council, which concurs entirely with my own, is that, as the same officer is at present performing the duties of stipendiary magistrate and immigration agent, with salaries of 150*l.* and 50*l.* per annum, together with the usual allowances as stipendiary magistrate, and as there appears no incompatibility in the tenure of the offices by one individual, but that, on the contrary, it is rather desirable than otherwise that the immigration agent should be vested with all the powers of a stipendiary magistrate, no necessity exists for increasing his salary at present, or making any alteration in existing arrangements. Upon the contingency arising of the colony being left without a stipendiary magistrate, the Council will be prepared to recommend to the Legislature to provide a salary for the joint offices of stipendiary magistrate and immigration agent, or to adopt any suggestions of the Indian Government that may be approved of by the Secretary of State.

3. With reference to the request of the Secretary of State to be furnished with copies of instructions given to the stipendiary magistrates, and an account of the duties performed by them in respect of the supervision of the liberated Africans formerly imported into Grenada, I have carefully examined all the records in this office, and cannot find that any special instructions have been issued to the stipendiary magistrates upon the subject; and having applied to Mr. Acting Stipendiary Justice Cockburn for information, he informs me that there are no such instructions among the papers handed over to him by Captain Hutcheson, whose duties he is now discharging.

4. The first clause of Act No. 177 of this island contains these words:—"That the "stipendiary magistrates shall and they are hereby declared to be the protectors of all "such immigrants as have been or shall be located within their respective districts."

This provision was made, I presume, with the view of enabling the stipendiary magistrates to interfere in all matters connected with the well being of the labourers, and of adopting any measures that might appear to them to be requisite for the protection of the immigrants generally, subject, of course, to the approval of the Governor. Another clause in the same Act empowers the Governor in Council to make rules and orders for the treatment of Africans under contract.

5. I annex hereto a copy of an Order in Council made in accordance with that Act, the provisions of which were carried out under the supervision of the stipendiary magistrates.

GRENADA.

6. All labour contracts made between immigrants and their employers were witnessed by the stipendiary magistrates, after having duly explained to the former the nature of such contracts, and ascertained as far as practicable that the terms were fully understood and agreed to by both parties. All disputes arising out of these contracts, and all alleged breaches of any of the terms of agreement, whether on the part of the labourer or of the master, were referred to and adjudicated upon by the stipendiary magistrates. Returns were required from each of them of the state and condition of the immigrants at the end of each half-year, embracing all particulars connected with them from their time of arrival in the island.

Sub-Enclosure.

7. I transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of the instructions issued to the immigration agent before the arrival of the "Maidstone" respecting his supervision of the Coolie immigrants.

8. They are anything but copious, but the Immigration Act of the island, passed in 1855, appears to define the duties of the immigration agent so clearly that it did not strike me that much more than a recommendation strictly to follow the provisions of the Act was necessary. Copies of the Act, No. 230, referred to, accompany this Despatch.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Governor Hincks, Barbadoes.

(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

Sub-Enclosure to No. 8.

Sub-Encl. to No. 8.

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, March 20, 1857.

I AM directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to furnish you with the following instructions:—

1. You will proceed with as little delay as possible to inspect and report upon the arrangements that have been made by the applicants for Coolie immigrants for their reception, as the arrival of the ship "Maidstone" may be shortly looked for.

2. You will see that provision has been made on every estate wherein immigrants are to be located for proper houses for their lodging, and that arrangements are made for the attendance of a medical practitioner, and that the medicines, a table of which was established by Order in Council of the 18th September, are provided.

3. Instructions for your immediate guidance will be issued to you as soon as the first immigrants arrive.

4. You will consider yourself as the protector of the immigrants, and will be able, by virtue of the powers vested in you as stipendiary justice, to settle all disputes that may arise between the labourers and their masters.

5. You will make a report of the state of health of the Coolies, of their conduct, disposition to work, and of their treatment generally by the several estates on which they may be located, at least once a month, and as much oftener as you may think circumstances require it.

6. As it is probable that the "Maidstone" will bring out one or more interpreters, who will place their services at the disposal of the colony, you will take care always to be accompanied by one of them in all your visits to the estates employing Coolies. You will, however, in the meantime ascertain if you can secure the services of any person here understanding the language, to provide for the contingency either of no interpreters arriving in the "Maidstone," or of their not being willing to remain here.

7. The fifth clause of Act No. 256 provides, that the Governor shall make regulations for the transmission of the property of deceased Coolies to India; you will therefore claim and receive all property that may have belonged to immigrants who may have died on board the "Maidstone" during the voyage from India, and all property of which any Coolie may be possessed after his or her arrival here, and will retain the same until you shall receive instructions as to its disposal.

8. The Immigration Act, No. 230, defines your duties so clearly, that the Lieutenant-Governor does not think it necessary to give you at present any further directions than strictly to follow the provisions of the Act. The Lieutenant-Governor will from time to time furnish you with such further instructions as may appear necessary.

I have, &c.

Samuel Cockburn, Esq., Immigration Agent.

(Signed) BOUVERIE ALLEYNE, Colonial Secretary.

No. 9.

No. 9.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 21.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, June 5, 1857.

(Received June 30, 1857.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 77, August 15, 1857, page 354.)

IN transmitting to you the enclosed copy of a Despatch from Lieut.-Governor Kortright supporting an application made by the House of Assembly of Grenada for an additional supply of Indian labourers, I venture again to

No. 32, 23rd May 1857. Enclosure.

GRENADA.

press upon your consideration that both in Grenada and St. Lucia it has been found impossible to continue the cultivation of old estates, owing to the deficiency of labour. I think that you ought to be made aware that it is a subject of complaint in those islands that the supply of labour is directed to so great an extent to colonies where it is chiefly employed in bringing new land into cultivation. I have only to add that I am persuaded that the application from Grenada may be safely acceded to, if not inconsistent with the general policy by which the Indian Government is guided.

I have, &c.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) F. HINCKS.

Encl. in No. 9.

Enclosure in *No. 9.*

(No. 32.)

SIR, Government Office, Grenada, *May 23, 1857.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received an address from the House of Assembly expressing the gratification it feels at the arrival of the long-expected supply of Coolie labourers.

2. It affords me much pleasure to be able to state, that the House of Assembly fully appreciates the benefit likely to be derived from an accession to the present number of our agricultural labourers, and that it is of opinion that the resuscitation of the interests of the island is entirely dependent on immigration.

3. The Legislature is desirous that the consideration of this important subject should be urged on Her Majesty's Government, and expresses the hope that as Coolie immigration has commenced to this island it will not be abandoned, but be proceeded with vigorously until the colony shall have a full supply of labour.

4. The House requests that the necessary application may be made for a supply of 1,000 Indian labourers during the next season, and will make due provision to meet the expense to be incurred thereby.

5. It is gratifying to observe, that the arrival of the first ship with immigrants, although the number is small, should be so favourably regarded by all persons, and there is no doubt that the prospect of a further supply will give very general satisfaction.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, Barbadoes.

(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

Despatches from the Secretary of State.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 8.)

SIR, Downing Street, July 26, 1854.

* Page 399. I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch* of the 22nd May, St. Lucia, No. 16, transmitting two ordinances, passed by the Legislative Council of that island, entitled respectively, "An Ordinance to raise a Loan "for promoting the Immigration of Coolie Labourers into the Island of "St. Lucia;" "An Ordinance to provide for the Immigration of Coolies into "the Colony at the public Expense, and for the Regulation and Government "of such Immigrants."

No. 2 of 1854.

No. 3 of 1854.

Ordinance No. 2 has been referred to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for their Lordships' consideration; and Her Majesty's decision upon it will be duly communicated to you.

I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to confirm and allow Ordinance No. 3.

I am of opinion, however, that, under present circumstances, it will be desirable that the clause of this ordinance which authorizes the absolute commutation of the right to a return passage for a grant of land should be repealed.

I must request to be informed, with as little delay as possible, of the number of Coolie immigrants which the Council would wish the agent in India should be instructed to send to St. Lucia in the ensuing season.

12th June 1854. I transmit to you, however, for your information, a copy of a Despatch which my predecessor addressed to the Governors of Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad, and Mauritius, on the 12th June last, as to the necessity for all emigration from Asia to the West Indies and to Mauritius being brought to a speedy termination, unless the disproportion of sexes which has hitherto prevailed can be rectified; and I have to acquaint you that I entirely concur in the views of the Duke of Newcastle.

Vide page 44.

You will understand, therefore, that after the funds to be raised under the present ordinance shall have been exhausted, and the expectations already held out to the colonists shall have been fulfilled, the further continuance of the emigration of Coolies, as well as of Chinese, should it hereafter be proposed to revert to the latter source, must be regarded as contingent upon means being found of inducing women to emigrate in some considerable proportion along with the men.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 14.)

SIR, Downing Street, October 31, 1854.

† Page 370. WITH reference to my Despatch, St. Lucia, No. 8, †of the 26th July last, in which I informed you that Her Majesty's decision upon the Ordinance No. 2 of 1854, "to raise a Loan for the Immigration of Coolie Labourers," would be communicated to you, I now transmit to you an Order in Council confirming that ordinance.

18th Oct. 1854. Enclosure.

In order that there might be no unnecessary delay in adopting any measures which the loan might be intended to effectuate, I have authorized the Emigration Commissioners to instruct Mr. Caird, their agent at Calcutta, to take up a ship for the conveyance of about 300 emigrants to St. Lucia.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 2. Encl. in No. 2.

At the Court at Windsor, the 18th day of October 1854.

Present,

The Queen's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS on the 3rd day of March last an Ordinance was passed by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of St. Lucia, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, in the following terms:—

[*Here follows Copy of the Ordinance No. 2, of 3rd March 1854, vide Appendix No. 24.*]

And whereas it is expedient that the said Ordinances should be ratified and confirmed by Her Majesty in Council: It is hereby ordered by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, with the advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council, that the said Ordinance shall be and the same is hereby ratified, confirmed, and finally enacted.

And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, and the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Bart., one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, are to give the necessary directions herein as to them may respectively appear.

(Signed) WILLIAM BATHURST.

No. 3. No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(Separate.)

SIR, Downing Street, November 15, 1854.

WITH reference to my predecessor's Despatch, in which you were informed that the question of contribution of 35 dollars by Coolie emigrants proceeding to the West Indies, towards the payment of the expense of their return passage to India, had been submitted to the Government of India, I have to acquaint you, for your information and guidance, that the Indian Government has assented to the proposal.

Mr. Caird, the agent in India, has been instructed to carry this into effect, in the case of all Coolies who may proceed to the West Indies after due notice shall have been given of this new condition, and has further been instructed to take measures for ensuring full communication of it to all intending emigrants.

All future emigrants will also be apprized that they will not be entitled to any public aid towards the expense of their back passages, unless claimed within eighteen months of the time of their becoming due.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

No. 4. No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 21.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 27, 1854.

I HAVE received your Despatch, St. Lucia, No. 33,* of the 23rd of October, forwarding an extract from the minutes of the proceedings of the Legislative Council, signifying the desire of that body that from 400 to 500 Coolies should be sent to the island during the ensuing season.

* Page 400.

ST. LUCIA.

* Page 370.

I must refer you in answer to this application to my Despatch, No. 14,* of the 31st October, in which I informed you that I had authorized the Emigration Commissioners to instruct Mr. Caird to take up a ship for the conveyance of about 300 emigrants to St. Lucia. The difference between that number and the number now applied for is too small for the freightage of another ship.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 23.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 28, 1854.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 7th ultimo, St. Lucia, No. 38;* and I have to convey to you Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance of the ordinance passed by the Legislative Council of that island, entitled, No. 4 of 1854, "An Ordinance to provide for the Immi- "gration of Coolies into the Colony at the public Expense, and for the Regu- "tion and Government of such Immigrants."

† Page 401.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 30.)

SI Downing Street, February 7, 1855.

No. 23 of 1854. 4th Dec. 1854. Enclosure.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a letter from Mr. Caird, reporting the circumstances under which no Coolie emigrants will be despatched to St. Lucia during the present season.

I have requested the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to move the Court of East India Directors to inform the Governor General of India that Her Majesty's Government are desirous that the Indian Act, No. 21 of 1844, sanctioning in certain cases the emigration of Coolies, should be made applicable to the colonies of St. Lucia and Grenada.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

Encl. in No. 6.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Emigration Agent's Office, Calcutta, December 4, 1854.

SIR,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of the 7th of October last, and in reply to state, for the information of Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, that an Act must be passed by the Government of India rendering lawful the emigration of labourers from this port to St. Lucia, before I can take any steps for procuring emigrants for that island.

I should mention, however, that were an Act even passed before the time expires for sending Coolies to the West Indian colonies (viz., the 1st day of March 1855), I could not have obtained any labourers this season in excess of the number for which tonnage has been already taken up at home.

I have, &c.

To S. Walcott, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. CAIRD, Emigration Agent.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 1.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 3, 1855.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 7th ultimo, St. Lucia, No. 30,* I transmit to you, in order that it may be communicated to the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Lucia, a copy of a letter from the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, recommending that the Indian Act, No. 21 of 1844, sanctioning in certain cases the emigration of Coolies, may be extended to that colony.

* Page 372.

24th Feb. 1855.

Vide page 344.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. LORD JOHN RUSSELL to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(Circular.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 23, 1855.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a Despatch I have addressed to the Governor of Mauritius in reference to the proportion of female to male immigrants to be required in future emigration from India to that colony.

No. 20, 25th May 1855.

Vide page 66.

You will understand that the views expressed in that Despatch on this subject are to be considered as equally applicable to the West Indies, where, indeed, it is still more important to redress the disproportion, inasmuch as the immigrants being brought from a greater distance, and for a longer term of service, must be regarded as constituting a more permanent population.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c.

(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

No. 9.

No. 9.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir W. MOLESWORTH to Governor Sir W. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 3.)

SIR, Downing Street, August 6, 1855.

I HAVE to acquaint you, for your own and Lieut.-Governor Power's information, that I have authorized the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to instruct Mr. Caird, the Emigration Agent in India, to charter and despatch during the ensuing season one vessel with Coolie emigrants for St. Lucia.

You will at the same time state to Lieut.-Governor Power that Mr. Caird has further been instructed to guide himself in regard to the proportion of female to male immigrants by the rule laid down by my predecessor's Circular Despatch of the 23rd June, namely, that there shall be one female to every three male immigrants.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir W. Colebrooke, &c. &c.

(Signed) W. MOLESWORTH.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 2.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 3, 1855.

I TRANSMIT for your information the enclosed extract of a report from the Emigration Commissioners, accompanied by a letter from the Emigration

6th Nov. 1855.

Extract.

Vide page 80.

ST. LUCIA.

22nd Sept. 1855.

Vide page 80.

23rd Nov. 1855.

Vide page 80.

9th March 1855.

Vide page 81.

Agent at Calcutta, announcing that he had been obliged to abandon the attempt to procure Coolie emigrants on condition of their paying 35 dollars towards the expense of their return passage.

I also enclose copy of a further letter from the Commissioners.

As it seems evident that the agent could have obtained no emigrants if he had insisted on those terms, the course he took appears to have been quitè right, and entitled to approval.

I also enclose an extract of a previous letter from Mr. Caird, explanatory of the terms which he had held forth to the emigrants on embarkation.

These terms will, of course, be duly fulfilled; I see nothing in them inconsistent with the provisions of the existing laws on the subject.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, *M.P.*, to Governor HINCKS.

SIR, Downing Street, March 19, 1856.

I HAVE to acquaint you that the question of the progressive proportion of female to male Indian immigrants to the West Indies has been under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I now proceed to make known to you the decision which has been arrived at on this question, as regards the seasons of 1856–7, 1857–8, and 1858–9.

1. The number of males to be introduced in 1856–7 must not under any circumstances exceed the proportion of one female to three male immigrants.

2. The number of males in 1857–8 must not exceed three times the number of females introduced in 1856–7.

3. For the season 1858-9 the number of males shall not exceed twice the number of females introduced in the previous season.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 13.)

SIR, Downing Street, April 16, 1856.

I HAVE to acquaint you that I have had under my consideration the question of the conditions under which Coolie immigrants should be brought during their residence in the West Indies for the second period of five years now sanctioned, consequent on the refusal of the Coolie to contribute, as you have already been informed, a sum of 35 dollars towards his return passage.

I am of opinion that, whilst leaving the Coolie's first five years of industrial residence as prescribed by the existing law, the best course will be to enact that, as regards the sixth and subsequent years of the ten of residence, it shall be incumbent upon him, as a condition of his claim to a return passage, that he shall enter into contracts, each contract to be of not less than one year's duration, or that he shall pay 2*l.* 10*s.* for every one of those years during which he has not been under contract.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 13.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor HINCKS.

No. 13.

(No. 18.)

SIR, Downing Street, May 31, 1856.

I TRANSMIT to you, for the information and guidance of yourself and of the Lieut.-Governors of Grenada and St. Lucia, a copy of a letter from the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, having reference to the emigration of Coolies to those colonies, a copy of a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners on that letter, with a copy of the reply returned thereto by my desire.

14th April 1856.
Enclosure 1.
Enclosure 2.
14th May 1856.
31st May 1856.
Enclosure 3.

I have to acquaint you that I approve of the several suggestions made by the Emigration Commissioners in their report.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 13.

Encl. 1 in No. 13.

India Board, April 14, 1856.

WITH reference to Sir Thomas Redington's letter of the 24th of February last, regarding the emigration of Coolies from India to St. Lucia and Grenada, I am directed by the Commissioners for the affairs of India to forward to you a copy of a letter which they have received from Sir J. Melvill, together with the Enclosures to which it refers, and I have to request that these papers may be brought under the early consideration of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and particularly to invite attention to the excellent practical suggestion contained in Captain Biden's letter.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

I am, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) GEORGE CLERK.

Sub-Enclosure 1 to No. 13.

Sub-Enclosure 1 to No. 13.

SIR, East India House, April 10, 1856.

1. WITH reference to my letter dated 22nd February 1855, relating to the proposed emigration of Indian labourers to St. Lucia and Grenada, I am commanded by the Court of Directors to inform you, that an Act, No. XXXI. of 1855, has been passed by the Legislative Council of India, extending to the colonies of St. Lucia and Grenada the provisions of Act XXI. of 1844, sanctioning the emigration of Coolies in certain cases.

2. The Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council of St. Lucia do not, however, in the opinion of the Government of India, afford sufficient protection to the Coolies who are expected to emigrate to that colony, and the Government have not, therefore, given their sanction to Act XXXI. of 1855 being brought into practical operation. The accompanying correspondence on the subject, together with the Minute recorded by Mr. Barnes Peacock, will explain the points on which the Ordinances of the Government of St. Lucia are thought to be defective; and I am directed to request that in communicating these documents to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies it may be explained, that on efficient provision being made for protecting the interests of intending emigrants, no time shall be lost by the Government of India in giving effect to the Act sanctioning emigration to St. Lucia.

3. The Court direct me to add, that the Government of India have not received any intelligence of any regulations having been made at Grenada for the protection of emigrants proceeding to that colony.

I have, &c.

The Secretary, India Board.

(Signed) JAMES C. MELVILL.

From Captain C. BIDEN, Protector of Emigrants to the West Indies, to F. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated the 23d July 1855.

SIR, Protector's Office, Madras, July 23, 1855.

WITH reference to the Minutes of Consultation, dated the 3rd instant, together with copies of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, and two ordinances enacted by the Legislatie Council of St. Lucia for regulating the introduction of Coolies from India to that colony, I have the honour to submit to the notice of the Right

ST. LUCIA.

Honourable the Governor in Council such remarks and suggestions as my experience enables me to afford and seem to be therein called for.

2. Adverting, in the first place, to the second and third paragraphs of Mr. Secretary Beadon's letter relating to the nomination of a colonial agent, whose duty would be directed to the superintendence of the Coolie immigrants at the very small salary of 50*l.* per annum, during their industrial residence at St. Lucia, it is in my opinion essentially requisite that he should be acquainted with the language and habits of the Coolies, otherwise many prejudices and very great discomfort and inconvenience would be the inevitable result of his inexperience and ignorance of habits and customs so very different to those which prevail in the West Indies.

3. In the second section of the ordinance referred to it is declared, that some fit and proper person resident in the colony of St. Lucia shall be nominated and appointed as the agent of immigration. It is therefore almost certain that no resident within that colony can be found who is acquainted with the language and habits of the natives of India, comprising the several castes and classes of Mahomedans, Rajpoots and Hindoos, and Pariahs; and the only method I can devise of counteracting so serious an evil would be by the hire of one or more well-qualified interpreters, well versed in the vernacular and English languages, who as an assistant overseer or overseer should be bound to serve under the immigration agent so long as the Government of the colony might require his or their services.

4. As the hire of interpreters of the first class would involve a considerable expense, I think eligible persons may be selected from amongst the emigrant labourers who tender their services, and by exempting them from labour, and giving them a suitable salary, the immigration agent would be enabled to discharge his duties under a system of equity and moderation. Every ship which may be hired for the conveyance of emigrants from each of the Presidencies should be provided with an interpreter and overseer; and if the emigration agents at the Presidency would instruct their respective maistries to select the most steady and intelligent persons for that situation, his services would be very useful on the voyage; and from the number of interpreters so engaged the Colonial agent would be able to select one or more of that class as a permanent assistant.

5. The third paragraph of Mr. Secretary Beadon's letter relates to the complaints which are made by Coolies of their detention in the West Indies after the expiration of their industrial residence. Any hindrance to their return to their native country when at liberty to do so would certainly be a grievance, and I respectfully recommend that the attention of the Colonial Government should be invited to the expediency of providing a certain remedy by giving an assurance to the immigrants that ships shall be provided for their return passage within a given period; and should any unavoidable delay take place, the Coolies shall receive an adequate compensation. There cannot be a reasonable objection to such a pledge, inasmuch as the Colonial Government can always be made acquainted when a term of servitude would expire, and when shipping would be required; and could so regulate their call for tenders of vessels as would insure the voyage to the West Indies being performed before or immediately after the hurricane months.

6. The fourteenth section of the ordinance relates to the daily labour of the Coolies, and specifies certain holidays, Sundays included, when they will be exempt from work; and this subject induces me to mention a very general complaint made by the return Coolies about their own religious festivals, and their inability to celebrate them according to the usage of their caste, creed, and country. The Mahomedans are in the habit of observing religious ceremonies on certain days in June, August, and September; and the Hindoo festivals are on certain days in January, February, March, April, September, and November; and as some of these festivals are so far recognized by the Government that subordinate servants in the public offices have leave of absence with the sanction and under the authority of Government, if a similar indulgence could be granted to immigrants during their industrial residence in the West Indies, it would be hailed as a great boon by all classes of the native population, and remove one of the prejudices they entertain against a long absence from their native country.

7. As the Right Honourable the Governor in Council desires to be made acquainted with any other points which my experience of the rules in force in the other West Indian Colonies may suggest, I am emboldened to recommend the expediency of calling the attention of the Colonial Government to those instances of neglect and mismanagement which led to disastrous voyages, much suffering and distress amongst the immigrants on their return to their native country, and to the sacrifice of many lives. These calamitous results were especially exemplified on board the ship "Zenobia," from Demerara to Madras, in November 1851, and on board the ship "Glentanner," from the same colony to Calcutta, in April 1852.

8. The correspondence relating to those events are on record at both Presidencies, and the evils which transpired, together with those remedial measures that have been recommended, can be referred to; and I would respectfully observe that they well deserve the notice and consideration of the respective Governments of St. Lucia and Grenada.

9. On this important and interesting subject I will only further observe, that natives of India when on their return from the West Indies to their own country are exposed to such vicissitudes of climate and sudden changes of weather, that it is absolutely necessary for the purpose of sustaining bodily health that the system of clothing and

dieting those poor people should be revised in accordance with the best advice which has been given in the correspondence referred to.

10. Ships from either of the colonies in British Guiana and the West Indies must traverse the North Atlantic beyond the Bermudas, and almost to the verge of the Western Islands, and when rounding the Cape of Good Hope they have to reach a high southern latitude, and run on to a certain meridian in that parallel where cold winds and much wet weather are prevalent; it is therefore obvious that a well-devised system of diet and clothing, according to the wants induced by change of climate, is indispensable.

11. A salutary supply of water and provisions would be provided under the directions of Government, but a well-defined system of clothing for the return voyage has not hitherto been carried out, as much of that provision has been left to the will and caprice of shipmasters and to the Coolies themselves. I would therefore recommend that whether the necessary stock of clothing for use within and without the tropics is to be provided by the Government or to be paid for by the Coolies, a certain and sufficient quantity should be supplied and placed under the care of the surgeon of the ship, who should be strictly enjoined to see that warm clothing is sufficient for each individual under his care, and that every article properly labelled or numbered is put on board ship before the embarkation of the Coolies. The surgeon should also be instructed to hold the warm clothing in reserve until it would be required by a change of climate. The first requirement would be soon after the departure from the West Indies when pursuing a northerly direction; and having recrossed the tropic of Cancer on her southerly track the warm clothing should be reclaimed and put in store, until in pursuance of the ship's track towards the Cape of Good Hope she had crossed the tropic of Capricorn, when it would again be advisable to supply every Coolie with the same means of comfort and protection.

12. This plan of issuing and storing clothing accords with that excellent system which, under the orders of the Honourable the Court of Directors, has for a number of years been practised on board the ships conveying recruits from England to India; and when every other care and attention to cleanliness, ventilation, and the individual health and comfort of Coolies is strictly enforced, and never neglected, then no apprehension would be entertained of suffering and hardship, or the recurrence of those casualties which have occurred on board ships with return immigrants or Coolies.

13. As the emigration from India to the islands of St. Lucia and Grenada will be carried into operation with the manifest advantages which must result from that experience which has been derived by a long continuance of emigration to the other colonies in British Guiana and the West Indies, and the return of immigrants therefrom, I hope and trust it will be conducted on all sides to the corresponding advantage of the colonies and those natives of India who may venture on such enterprise with a view to better their condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHRIS. BIDEN
Protector of Emigrants to the West Indies.

MINUTE by the Honourable B. PEACOCK.

Dated the 2nd January 1856.

Act, No. XXXI., of 1855, for authorizing the emigration of Indian labourers to the British Colonies of St. Lucia and Grenada received the assent of the Most Noble the Governor-General on the 14th of November last, and was communicated to the Legislative Council on the 5th December. Emigration of Coolies to St. Lucia and Grenada.

By section 17, the Act will not take effect until the Governor-General in Council shall certify that such regulations have been provided and such measures taken as he may deem necessary for the protection of the emigrants during their residence in the colony, and in respect of their return to India.

When I first saw the ordinance passed by the Legislative Council in St. Lucia, for the protection of Indian Coolies emigrating to that colony, I doubted whether it afforded them sufficient protection, and I suggested that the opinions of the emigration agent and protector of emigrants should be obtained.

Those opinions have been forwarded, and they entirely corroborate the view which I then took, that Coolies proceeding from this country would not be sufficiently protected by an agent at a salary of 50*l.* a year, which is the amount fixed by the second section of the ordinance passed on the 22nd of April 1854.

It appeared to me that as this was the first time at which Coolies were authorized to emigrate to St. Lucia, some provision ought to be made for the appointment of a protector acquainted with their language and habits, and who could devote the whole of his time in superintending and watching over their interests. I entirely concur in the remarks of the Emigration Agent at Calcutta, in paragraphs 2 and 3 of his letter. Mr. Caird considers that the colony, as well as the Coolies, would benefit by the employment of a competent officer as protector. I have no doubt whatever that he is correct in this respect, though the principal object of the Government of India is the protection of the Coolies.

I also agree with Mr. Caird, that the sum of 7*l.* 10*s.* which is to be contributed by each Coolie towards his return passage should be received by small monthly instalments.

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I also thought that the ordinance did not sufficiently provide for the return passage of Coolies; it appeared to me that section 26 did not furnish a sufficient guarantee to the Coolie, that he should be supplied with free passage within a reasonable time after the expiration of the term of residence required of him. I knew that Coolies had frequently complained of having been detained on other colonies for want of a ship long after they became entitled to a free passage home. I am borne out in this by the protector of emigrants in Calcutta. I concur with the protector of emigrants, Bombay, that some provision should be made for taking charge of the property of emigrants dying in the colony.

There are several other suggestions contained in the correspondence which I think should be forwarded to the Honourable Court; many of them are matters for consideration in the colony, having regard to the fact that it is the interest of the colonists themselves to make emigration as acceptable as possible to the Coolies.

I think it would be very desirable if possible to make some provision for sending a protector from this country, as suggested by Mr. Caird, in paragraph 6 of his letter.

At present, I believe, no intimation has been received of any provision having been made in Grenada for the protection of Coolies who may emigrate to that colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. PEACOCK.

Encl. 2 in No. 13.

Enclosure 2 in No. 13.

SIR, Emigration Office, May 14, 1856.

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 2nd instant, enclosing the copy of a letter from the Indian Board, with various enclosures, stating the objections entertained by the Indian Government to an Immigration Ordinance passed by the Legislature of St. Lucia. You desire us, in reporting on these objections, to state whether they apply to a similar Act passed in Grenada.

2. By his Despatch of 16th January 1854, the Duke of Newcastle informed the West Indian colonists of the conditions on which Coolie immigration would be allowed to proceed. In April 1854, the Legislature of St. Lucia passed an Ordinance based on these conditions, and taken mainly from a Trinidad Ordinance which was known to have been approved by the Home Government. Towards the end of the same year the colonists requested that 400 or 500 Coolies might be sent them as soon as possible. As this was not then allowed by the law in India, the Indian Government was instructed by the Court of Directors, on the 28th of February 1855, to pass an Act authorizing emigration to St. Lucia and Grenada; but it was added that this Act was not to be brought into operation till "the same securities were provided for the welfare of the Coolies at St. Lucia and Grenada as in the other colonies to which they have heretofore been allowed to emigrate, and also for their eventual return to India." The required Act was accordingly passed in India (No. 31, of 1855), and the St. Lucia Ordinance, when it arrived in England, was communicated (we infer) to the Court of Directors. So little was any objection anticipated to this law, that we were authorized by your letter of the 25th July 1855, to charter a ship in this country for the conveyance of Coolies to St. Lucia. Happily this was not done, and the operations of Mr. Caird, who was directed to despatch a ship in the season of 1855-6, were arrested, because the Indian Government, on grounds which appear in the papers now under report, have objected to the St. Lucia Ordinance, and have consequently refrained from bringing into operation the Act 31 of 1855.

3. Meantime the Grenada Legislature have passed an Act, based, like that of St. Lucia, on the terms offered by the Duke of Newcastle, and taken from a British Guiana Ordinance, which had received the approval of the Home Government, and was itself framed in a great measure on a model law sent out from this country. This law was approved by the Home Government; but at the date of the papers now under report it had not reached the Indian Government. The Secretary of State, however, had authorized the commencement of emigration to Grenada. The sum applicable to the purpose is, we believe, 7,000*l.*, which would introduce about the same number of emigrants applied for on behalf of St. Lucia.

4. It will be seen that the Legislatures of these two colonies have used every endeavour to make their laws acceptable to the Home Government; we imagine that both must have had reason to suppose that their laws were approved as sufficient, and in the case of St. Lucia a great delay has taken place in giving effect to their very urgent requests. We trust, therefore, that means may be found to prevent, if practicable, the loss of the present season.

5. With this preface we proceed to the objections entertained by the Indian Government against the St. Lucia Ordinances, which we will state, once for all, apply equally to the Act passed in Grenada.

6. I.—The second section of this the St. Lucia Ordinance, and the sixth section of the Grenada Act, provide for the appointment of an immigration agent, with a salary of 50*l.* per annum.

7. The Indian Government, with the concurrence of the emigration officers at the three great ports to whom the matter has been referred, point out that an officer receiving such a salary is not equal to the duties required from him; and it is suggested that a person acquainted with the language and habits of the Coolies should be appointed, for the sole

purpose of watching their interests. Captain Biden, to whose suggestions the India Board invite especial attention, purposes, that if this is not done, interpreters should at least be sent out in every ship.

8. The experiment of sending out an officer from India was tried in the case of Trinidad, but did not there answer. It has not been insisted on in the other large colonies of Jamaica and British Guiana, nor ultimately in Trinidad, where, according to Mr. Caird's reports, he Coolies are notwithstanding very prosperous; we hope, therefore, that St. Lucia and Grenada, where the sum to be spent, and in all probability the amount of immigration will be so trifling, will not be compelled to adopt a step which will exhaust so large a proportion of their funds. The Indian authorities are probably not aware that a vigilant superintendence is exercised over immigrant labourers in each district of St. Lucia and Grenada by the stipendiary magistrates, who send into the Government (so long as it is requisite) periodical reports of the treatment and state of immigrants. The immigration agent appears to be chiefly appointed in order to inspect the emigrant ships on arrival, to allot and indent the Coolies for three years, and to register all subsequent changes of employers, deaths, commutations of service, and other matters requiring to be placed on record. Considering the small amount of the immigration, it does seem to us that these duties could not employ a single person, and that a public officer might well be expected to perform them on receiving an addition of 50*l.* a year to the income which he may derive from other employments.

9. We think it clear, however, that interpreters should be sent out, as proposed by Captain Biden, and we would suggest that every ship despatched to Grenada and St. Lucia should contain, for every 100 emigrants on board, one Coolie who has a competent knowledge of English or French (which would be equally available in these islands), and is bound if required to serve as interpreter to the Government at a fixed rate of wages. Mr. Caird or Mr. Thompson would be best able to settle what that rate should be, and should be authorized to make the necessary engagement on the part of the Colonial Governments.

10. II.—All the West Indian laws alike provide that at the expiration of a certain period, and on payment of a certain sum, the Coolie shall be entitled to a return passage. But delay has frequently occurred in fulfilling this pledge, and the Indian Government suggest that some security should be taken that the Coolies should receive their return passage within a reasonable time after it becomes due. Hitherto no security has been required beyond the pledge of the Colonial Government, which is enforced by the authority of the Secretary of State; and we cannot but urge that it will be hard to St. Lucia and Grenada to arrest their immigration till they have given securities which are not required from the larger colonies.

11. And on this point we should observe that it is impossible to furnish return passages with perfect regularity, since the Coolies can only be sent in shiploads, and consequently the first applicants must wait, first, till it is clear that such a shipload is forthcoming (a matter which the fickleness of the emigrants renders very hazardous), and next, till the necessary communications can be made with England, and a vessel engaged. Meantime, it may often happen that the season has passed over, and so the voyage is thrown back for some months.

12. We think, however, that, according to the suggestion of Captain Biden, a law which would compensate the emigrant for unreasonable detention might very fairly be recommended to the Colonial Legislature. The current rate of commutation for five years' service in the colony is fifty dollars, and the Coolie might very justly be allowed somewhat more than one-tenth of that sum, say six dollars, for every half-year which intervened between his application to be sent back to India and the offer of a back passage.

13. III.—The Indian Government also express their concurrence in Mr. Caird's suggestion, that the Coolie's contribution to his back passage should be paid by annual instalments, which he certainly will, instead of a lump sum which he may probably not, be able to pay. This suggestion we have ourselves made on the same ground; but it was not adopted, on account of the insuperable difficulties which occurred in collecting small payments from the Coolies, or in making deductions from their wages. It has, however, become immaterial, as the contribution towards back passages has been wholly abandoned for the present.

14. IV.—It is suggested that arrangements should be made for collecting the property of any Coolie dying in the colony, and remitting it to his relatives in India. We are not aware what is the present practice in this respect; but the suggestion may well be brought under the notice of the colonial authorities.

15. V.—It is suggested by several officers, and among others by Captain Biden, that the Indians ought to be allowed holidays on their religious festivals. To this perhaps the attention of the colonial authorities might be especially drawn. It seems, however, to be rather a matter of practice than of law, and we should imagine that the employers would find it their interest to humour the Coolies by such indulgences. At present it does not appear when these holidays are.

16. Captain Biden also alludes to the mortality which took place in the first return Coolie ships, recommends the correspondence on that subject to the attention of the Governments of St. Lucia and Grenada, and suggests a mode of securing that proper clothing should be issued. As this is not a matter material to the present purpose, we will only state that the back passages have been always hitherto furnished through the agency of this

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Board; that the correspondence to which Captain Biden alludes has been most carefully and repeatedly considered, and the suggestions contained in it almost universally adopted; and that the supply of clothing has been the subject of constant correspondence with the colonial authorities, and will certainly be carefully attended to when the service is resumed.

17. Lastly, a suggestion is made that the emigration agents should be able to inform the Coolies of the rates of wages obtainable and prices of necessaries in the different West Indian colonies to which they are invited to proceed. Such a statement, we think, the authorities of British Guiana, Trinidad, St. Lucia, and Grenada, might be requested to furnish.

18. On the whole we would suggest,—

1. That the Coolie ships for St. Lucia and Grenada should be required to carry one person capable of acting and engaged to act as interpreter in the colony for every 100 persons placed on board.

2. That copies of the papers transmitted by the Indian Government should be sent to the Governments of British Guiana, Trinidad, St. Lucia, and Grenada, with a recommendation to make provision for the remittance to India of the property of deceased Coolies, and for granting to Coolies a compensation of six dollars for every half year intervening between their application for a return passage and the actual offer of one.

3. That they should also be requested to state the least rate of wages at which the Indian labourer will be actually indented on his arrival, stating the deductions which will be made from those wages, and the advantages which he will receive in addition to them, and also to state the average prices of the principal necessaries of life, especially rice and salt fish, and of such articles of clothing as the Indians are likely to require.

4. That the Indian authorities should be requested to state, if possible, the holidays to which different classes of Indians are considered entitled in their own country, in order that the West Indian Governments may take such steps as may seem best for securing them the same privilege (forfeiting, of course, their wages while they remain idle) in the colonies.

19. And we hope that, considering the small amount of emigration to St. Lucia or Grenada, the delay which has already occurred in commencing it, and the readiness with which these colonies have hitherto adopted all the terms which they supposed to be required by Government, or which have in fact been required from the larger colonies, the Court of Directors will consent that one or two ships (as the case may be) may, if possible, be despatched during the present season to each of these islands.

We have, &c.

Herman Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

Encl. 3 in No. 13.

Enclosure 3 in No. 13.

SIR, Downing Street, May 31, 1856.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a letter from the Court of East India Directors, with various documents which have been received from the Government of India, having reference to the emigration of Coolies to the West Indies, and especially to the provision made by the Ordinance passed by the Council of St. Lucia for the proper reception and care of the Coolies on their arrival in that island.

I am to transmit to you, for the information of the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, and in order that it may be communicated to the Court of Directors and to the Government of India, the copy of a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom your letter and its enclosures was referred by Mr. Labouchere's desire; and I am to acquaint you that copies of the report have been forwarded to the Governors of those colonies to which Coolies are to be sent, in order that the local authorities may consider, with a view to carrying them into effect, the several suggestions made by the Commissioners.

14th May 1856.

Page 351.

I am also to transmit to you a copy of the Act passed by the Legislature of Grenada for the encouragement of immigration into that island.

Mr. Labouchere has learnt with much regret that the Indian Government had felt themselves precluded from sanctioning the emigration of Coolies to St. Lucia during the past season, and I am to express his hope that the Court of Directors and the Government of India will not, after a perusal of the report of the Emigration Commissioners, offer any impediments to the emigration of the number of Coolies which had been asked for by St. Lucia and Grenada during the past season.

Sir George Clerk, India Board.

(Signed) H. MERIVALE.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 20.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 5, 1856.

13th May 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a letter from the Emigration Commissioners, in which they recommend, in compliance with the wish of certain

Vide page 90.

merchants and planters, that Mr. Caird and the Agent at Madras should receive, in addition to their present salaries, a fee of two rupees per adult on all the emigrants despatched by them to the West Indies in any season above the amount of 2,000; and that in the case of the Madras Agent that payment shall be in addition to his present fee of a rupee per adult on all emigrants shipped by him.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 15.

No. 15.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 23.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 30, 1856.

WITH reference to my Despatch, St. Lucia, No. 18,* of the 31st ultimo, I transmit, for your information and that of the officer administering the Government of St. Lucia, the copy of a letter from the India Board and its enclosures, from which you will perceive that the Court of Directors have agreed, under certain conditions, to the proposition made with reference to the introduction of Coolies into St. Lucia during the next season.

* Page 375.

14th June 1856.

Vide page 348.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 24.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 30, 1856.

IT having been represented to me that the rule laid down by my Circular Despatch of the 19th March,† as regards the proportion of female to male immigrants to be introduced into the West Indies, might limit in a manner not intended the total number of immigrants allowed for each year, I have to acquaint you that I do not propose to maintain the proportion between the males of one year and the females of the year preceding, but that for the future the proportion to be enforced should be between the females and the males of each successive year, as follows;—

† Page 374.

In the seasons of 1856–7 and 1857–8, not less than one female to three male immigrants.

For the season of 1858–9 not less than one female to two males; leaving the proportion for subsequent seasons to be determined by future instructions.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Earl of CLARENDON to Governor HINCKS.

SIR, Downing Street, August 6, 1856.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a Despatch which has been addressed to the Earl of Clarendon by Her Majesty's Consul at the Cape de Verde islands, stating that 328 emigrants have left those islands for Demerara, and that others will probably follow.

26th June 1856.

Vide page 94.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) CLARENDON.

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No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

SIR, Downing Street, December 8, 1856.

26th Nov. 1856. Vide page 107.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with the copy of a letter from Mr. Caird, enclosing an amended scale of stores and medicines for Coolie ships, and some printed regulations for the guidance of masters of ships carrying Coolies.

I have instructed the Commissioners to authorize the emigration agents in India to give effect to Mr. Caird's suggestion, that a gratuity of one rupee should be paid to masters of Coolie ships for every immigrant landed alive, provided the mortality on the voyage does not exceed two per cent.; and a further bonus of 10*l.* in the case of no death occurring.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 19.

No. 19.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 35.)

SIR, Downing Street, December 9, 1856.

24th Nov. 1856. Vide page 350. 3rd Dec. 1856. Vide page 351.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a letter from the Assistant Secretary to the Treasury, with the copy of a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners relative to the means of providing funds for the emigration of Coolies to Grenada and St. Lucia.

As regards Grenada, you will observe that funds can be provided, but that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury are not enabled to raise any money on account of St. Lucia, owing to the suspension, by the Ordinance No. 6 of 1856, of duties imposed by the Ordinance No. 2 of 1854.

It will, therefore, be necessary that the Ordinance No. 6 of 1856 should be repealed, and I have to instruct you to take measures for recommending the Legislature of that island to pass an enactment for that purpose.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

P.S.—Since writing this Despatch I have learnt that the Government of India have declined giving their sanction to the emigration of Coolies to St. Lucia. I shall hope to communicate with you on the subject by the next mail, but in the meantime it will not be necessary for you to take any steps in respect of Ordinance No. 6 of 1856.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 39.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 3, 1857.

Enclosure 1, Dec. 4, 1856, and Sub-Enclosures.

I ENCLOSE, in order that you may transmit them to the officer administering the Government of St. Lucia, the copies of various documents which I have received from the Secretary to the India Board, and particularly of a letter from the Government of India conveying their refusal to open emigration to St. Lucia.

Enclosure 2, Jan. 14, 1857. Extract.

I will only say of that letter that I see no reason to dissent from the observations in it which are contained in the annexed extract from a report furnished to me by the Emigration Commissioners, that I deeply regret the decision at which the Indian Government have arrived, and that if any efforts of mine could have availed to procure its withdrawal, and to effect a commencement of emigration to St. Lucia during the present season, I should not have failed to employ them. You will, however, perceive that the period at which these documents reached me rendered any such interference impossible, and it now

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only remains to consider what may best be done to secure that the season of 1857–8 is not lost, like so many which have preceded it.

The colonists of St. Lucia may be assured that I shall do my part to ensure this. But in the meantime, as the requirements of the Indian Government (with one exception) involve no sacrifice on the part of the colonists, it will, I think, be their wisest course to comply as far as possible with them without discussing whether they are founded on misapprehension or not. In order to relieve the Colonial Legislature from trouble and responsibility in this matter I enclose the draft of an Ordinance which, with the single exception to which I have alluded, will, I think, give effect to the demands of the Indian Government.

Enclosure.

The section of the draft Ordinance which I am aware fails to meet these demands is the 10th. The Indian Government appear to expect that a free back passage should be conceded to the Coolie without requiring him to complete a second five years of industrial residence.

For myself I am disposed to think that the exaction of this extended industrial residence will be found, in the event, to involve more complexity of arrangement, and perhaps confusion, than it is worth, and that it would be wisest to give the Coolie a back passage after ten years' residence, of which the first five only should be industrial. And such I perceive to have been the opinion expressed by the Duke of Newcastle in the Despatch on which the present immigration law of St. Lucia is founded. But this would involve a change in the existing law which I cannot require from the colonists without withdrawing what has been expressly conceded on the part of Her Majesty's Government to the West Indies, and as I conceive with the sanction of the Court of Directors. I leave this point, therefore, to the judgment of the Legislature. If they adopt the draft Ordinance which I enclose I shall consider that they will have done all on these points which I think myself entitled to ask of them.

(No. 175, 16th Jan. 1854, to Governor of British Guiana, page 1. Despatch, Grenada, 10th March 1854, No. 33, page 342.)

In order to place the Indian Government in possession of the information which they require as to the duties of stipendiary magistrates I should wish the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Lucia to furnish me with copies of the instructions issued to those officers, and an account of the duties which they actually performed in respect to the superintendence of liberated Africans; and also with copies of the instructions which it is proposed to issue to the stipendiary magistrates and immigration agent with respect to the reception, allotment, and superintendence of Indian immigrants. I should also wish to receive such further information as may enable me to judge what will be an adequate salary for the immigration agent, with due consideration both of the responsibility of his duties and of the probably limited amount of the immigration.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 20.

Encl. in No. 20.

SIR, East India House, December 4, 1856.

WITH reference to my letter to your address, dated 12th June 1856, I am commanded to forward to you, for communication to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Government of India, with its enclosures, relating to the terms on which it was proposed that emigration from India to the colonies of St. Lucia and Grenada should be allowed to recommence.

2. The Government of India have set forth at length the grounds on which they have refrained from authorizing the recommencement of emigration to St. Lucia. The provisions made in that colony for the care of the emigrants and for the regulation of contracts being manifestly defective, the Court entirely concur in the propriety of that decision.

3. As regards Grenada, the Government of India, though not fully satisfied as to the sufficiency of the provision made for the discharge of the duties of protector of emigrants in the colony, have nevertheless given the requisite authority for the recommencement of Coolie emigration, on the understanding that the further conditions formerly suggested by Mr. Labouchere, especially those relating to the despatch of an interpreter with every one hundred labourers, the payment of compensation in the event of delay in the provision of a return passage after it has been claimed, and the remittance of the property of deceased Coolies, shall be strictly complied with.

4. The Court request that the attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, may be directed to the remarks of the Government of India, as to the proposed payment of six

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dollars for every half-year's delay in the provision of a back passage to Coolies to whom it is due and by whom it has been claimed. It will be most proper that intending emigrants shall be made fully aware that a back passage will not, as a matter of certainty, be provided at the time specified in the authorized regulations, and it will then rest with them to determine as to the sufficiency of the proposed compensation. In any case the Court are of opinion that, as suggested by the Government, three months notice of an opportunity of embarkation should be given to any Coolie who has been disappointed of a passage, when first applied for by him.

5. In accordance with the suggestion of the Government of India, the Court request that they may be furnished with a copy of the rules laid down, in each of the colonies, for the direction and guidance of the stipendiary magistrates, with regard to the superintendence of emigrant labourers, the performance of this duty being of the utmost importance in those colonies, where the arrangements with regard to the appointment of protector of emigrants may, as in Grenada, not be thoroughly satisfactory.

6. In conclusion I am directed to request attention to the observations of the Government of India as to the propriety of a formal repeal of that provision of the Colonial ordinances which relates to payments by the emigrants on account of their return passage. This condition, according to a communication from the Emigration Commissioners, is no longer to be insisted on; and it appears to the Court most desirable that the Ordinances should be amended accordingly, so that all risk of future misunderstanding may be avoided.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES C. MELVILL.

Sub-Encl. in Encl. in No. 20.

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No. 120 of 1856.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

HONOURABLE SIRS, Home Department, September 12.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch in the Public Department, No. 58 of 1856, dated the 17th June, forwarding correspondence with Her Majesty's Government, regarding the proposed emigration of Indian labourers to St. Lucia and Grenada, together with a copy of the Act, No. 230, passed by the Legislature of Grenada on the subject.

2. We regret to say that the modifications by which it is proposed to meet the objections of the Government of India to the arrangements previously suggested, are not, in our opinion, thoroughly satisfactory, as regards either colony, and that in respect of St. Lucia they do not enable us to notify that such regulations have been provided, and such measures taken as we deem necessary for the protection of the emigrants during their residence in the colony, and for their return to India.

3. The regulations of Grenada which your Honourable Court have now forwarded, and which were not in our possession on the date of our previous despatch, although open on one point to the same objection ith those of St. Lucia, appear to be in other respects as effective for the protection of emigrants as the regulations of British Guiana upon which they are based. This one point is the salary of the immigration agent, to whom the Act of British Guiana assigns a yearly salary of 3,360 dollars, and two sub-agents; whilst the Act of Grenada provides that he shall be paid at the rate not exceeding 50*l.* a-year. This is a wide difference, and seems to imply a great disparity of duties and responsibilities; and indeed it is manifest from the letter of the Colonial and Land Emigration Commissioners of May 14th, 1856, that the functions of the immigration agents of Grenada and St. Lucia are in their opinion much less general and important than, judging from the Acts and regulations in force in some of the larger colonies, they would appear to be. Possibly this may be the case, and therefore as the regulations adopted by Grenada in other respects agree generally with those already in operation in British Guiana, we have determined to accept them, subject to the condition now conceded that an interpreter shall be despatched with every hundred Coolies, and in the faith that the further provisions to be suggested to the Legislature of Grenada by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies will be carried out. Of these provisions, the most important, and those upon which the Government of India must especially insist, are for the payment of compensation in the event of a return passage to India being delayed after it has been duly claimed; and for the remittance of the property of deceased Coolies.

4. The necessary notice has accordingly been published, and the Agents at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, have been informed that they are at liberty to make arrangements for sending labourers to Grenada, under the conditions imposed by the Act, according to the instructions they may have received in that behalf.

5. But the case of St. Lucia is very different. Not only is the model Act of Trinidad departed from in respect of the salary of the agent, but many of the provisions of that Act designed to protect the immigrants, are either omitted altogether or less favourably framed. For instance, it is not required that immigrant ships should be inspected either upon arrival or departure. No provision is made for the reception, lodging, or feeding of the unemployed immigrant upon his first landing. No rule is laid down to guard against the separation of families in locating immigrants. A deduction is made from the wages of the immigrants for medical attendance and lodging; while in the other colonies the employer is bound to find these without deduction. The immigrant is required to pay towards defraying his passage home as a consideration for being exempted from industrial service, under indenture after the first five years; but in the other colonies he is, at the end of five years, free from industrial service without any payment. No means are taken for securing that the immigrant, whose contract with his employer is that he is to be paid according to the quantity of his work, shall be released from his contract, if he does not receive work sufficient to enable him to earn a just amount of wages. There is provision for this in the regulations of Grenada.

6. We desire further to point out that section 22 of the Trinidad Ordinance is omitted in that of St. Lucia. By that section the Governor may authorize the agent-general of immigrants to grant a certificate of exemption from industrial residence to any immigrant who from sickness, accident, or other cause shall appear to him incapable of labour, and may send any such immigrant back at the expense of the colony to the port in India from which he emigrated. Similar enactments are contained in the British Guiana Ordinance, section 54, and the Grenada Ordinance, section 56. The provision is a most important one, for without it a Coolie who from sickness or accident may be prevented from earning his livelihood in the colony, may have no means of returning to his family and relations in India.

7. We consider it a very important part of the duties of the protector of immigrants or immigration agents at every British colony personally to inspect every vessel arriving at or leaving the colony with immigrants on board, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the provisions of the law have been complied with; to make periodical visits to every estate upon which immigrants are employed; to inspect the immigrants employed upon such estates; to see that they are properly lodged, fed, and treated by their employer; and to inquire into any complaints which the immigrants may have against their employers. Provision is made by the Trinidad Ordinance for the discharge of these duties; but no similar provision is made in the Ordinance for St. Lucia, which was taken from it, nor are those duties enumerated by the Colonial Commissioners in their letter of the 14th May last, amongst the principal duties of the immigration agent.

8. It is stated, however by the Commissioners that a vigilant superintendence is exercised over immigrant labourers in each district of St. Lucia and Grenada, by the stipendiary magistrates, who send into Government, so long as it is requisite, periodical reports of the treatment and state of immigrants. The Ordinance for St. Lucia authorizes the stipendiary magistrates to perform this duty, but it does not require them to do so (section 22); so also the Grenada Ordinance authorizes, but does not require the immigration agent to perform this duty (section 52), whereas the Trinidad Ordinance requires the immigration agent to visit every estate on which immigrants are employed twice at least in every year. For the present, we have no objection to act upon the statement of the Emigration Commissioners that the stipendiary magistrates of Grenada do in fact exercise a vigilant superintendence over immigrant labourers, but we request that your Honourable Court will obtain through the Colonial Office and transmit to us a copy of the rules laid down in each of the colonies for the direction and guidance of the stipendiary magistrates, with reference to the discharge of this important part of their duties.

9. The Emigration Commissioners state that the contribution towards back passages has been wholly abandoned for the present. If this be the case, we think it essential that the Ordinances should be amended accordingly, for we are not aware of any resolution binding on the colonies to that effect, and as long as the Ordinances in force require such contributions, we do not think that the Coolies about to emigrate can fairly be told that such contributions will not be required.

10. With regard to the proposed payment of six dollars for every half-year which intervenes between the application for a passage home by a Coolie who is entitled to it, and the offer of such back passage, full explanation will be made to every Coolie as to the terms upon which he is about to emigrate, as he must not be led to believe that a back passage will necessarily be provided at the end of ten years. We are not disposed to object to the emigration of labourers on these terms, provided they are thoroughly explained and understood by every Coolie before he agrees to emigrate; but we think that if a passage be not provided for every labourer at the time at which he becomes entitled to it, at least three month's notice ought afterwards to be given to him of the time at which the passage will be provided for him, so as to enable him to put an end to any contract of service by which he may have bound himself in the interval between his application for a passage

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home and the offer of one, and to avail himself of the offer; and that payment at the same rate should be made for the whole of the three months.

11. A Bill has been introduced into the Legislative Council for empowering the Governor-General in Council by a notification in the Gazette to suspend emigration to any colony whenever it may appear to him necessary to do so.

We have, &c.
(Signed) CANNING.
GEO. ANSON.
J. DORIN.
J. P. GRANT.
B. PEACOCK.

Fort William,
September 12, 1856.

India Public Department,
June 17 (No. 58.) 1856.

Our Governor-General of India in Council.

Letter dated 17th January (No. 8.) 1856. Proposed emigration of Coolies to St. Lucia and Grenada.

1. WE forward to you a copy of the correspondence which has taken place with Her Majesty's Government on the subject embraced in this correspondence, together with a copy of the Act passed by the Legislature of Grenada for the encouragement of immigration into that island.

2. You will observe that Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies has undertaken to communicate to the Government of St. Lucia and Grenada his recommendation that certain modifications shall be made in the arrangements for immigration into those islands with the view of meeting the objections taken by you to the Ordinance of the Legislature of St. Lucia. We are not altogether satisfied of the sufficiency of the changes proposed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere, more especially of those which have reference to the charge of the Coolies while in the colony and to the securing to those Coolies whose term of service has expired, a return passage to India within a reasonable time. While, therefore, we are desirous that, if possible, the wishes of the colonial authorities should be met, for the despatch in the present season of a certain number of labourers to the islands in question, we must leave it to you to determine after communication, if necessary, with the protectors of emigrants and the emigration agents whether the arrangements modified as now proposed are sufficient to secure the welfare of those who may proceed thither.

3. We have intimated to Her Majesty's Government that any present acquiescence in the arrangements now proposed must be regarded as temporary, and conditional on the adoption by the Colonial Legislature of such alterations as you may consider absolutely necessary to secure the welfare of the Coolie immigrants.

We are, &c.
(Signed) W. H. SYKES,
R. D. MANGLES.

London, June 17, 1856.

MINUTE by the Right Hon. the Governor-General, dated August 25, 1856.

Subscribed to by the members of Government.

Coolie emigration to Grenada and St. Lucia.

WITH reference to the Despatch of the Hon. Court of the 17th of June last, and to the correspondence inclosed in it upon the subject of Coolie emigration to Grenada and St. Lucia, I am sorry to say that the modifications by which it is proposed to meet the objections of the Government of India to the arrangements previously suggested are not in my opinion thoroughly satisfactory as regards either colony; and that in respect of St. Lucia, they do not enable the Governor-General in Council to notify that such regulations have been provided, and such measures taken as he deems necessary for the protection of the immigrants during their residence in the colony, and for their return to India.

The regulations of Grenada were not in the possession of the Government of India when the Despatch of the 27th of January last was addressed to the Hon. Court. They have now been received, and although open on one point to the same objection with those of St. Lucia, they appear to be in other respects as effective for the protection of immigrants as the regulations of British Guiana upon which they are based. This one point is the salary of the immigration agent, to whom the Act of British Guiana assigns a yearly salary of 3,360 dollars and two sub-agents, whilst the Act of Grenada provides that he shall be paid at a rate not exceeding 50*l.* a year. This is a wide difference, and seems to imply a great disparity of duties and reponsibilities; and indeed it is manifest, from the letter of the Colonial and Land Emigration Commissioners of May 14, 1856, now before the Government, that the functions of the immigration agents of Grenada and St. Lucia are in their opinion much less general and important than judging from the acts and regulations in force in some of the larger colonies, they would appear to be. Possibly this may be the case, and therefore I do not feel that the Government of India is entitled to condemn the regulations adopted by Grenada upon this point of salary alone; and as in other respects they agree generally with those already in operation in British Guiana, I am of opinion that they may be accepted subject to the condition now conceded that an interpreter shall be despatched with every hundred Coolies, and on the faith that the further provisions to

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be suggested to the legislature of Grenada by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies will be carried out. Of these provisions the most important, and those upon which the Government of India should especially insist, are for the payment of compensation in the event of a return passage to India being delayed after it has been duly claimed, and for the remittance of the property of deceased Coolies.

But the case of St. Lucia is very different, not only is the model Act of Trinidad departed from in respect of the salary of the agent, but many of the provisions of that Act designed to protect the immigrants are either omitted altogether or less favourably framed.

For instance, it is not required that immigrant ships should be inspected either upon arrival or departure.

No provision is made for the reception, lodging, or feeding of the unemployed immigrant upon his first landing.

No rule is laid down to guard against the separation of families in locating immigrants.

A deduction is made from the wages of the immigrants for medical attendance and lodging. In the other colonies the employer is bound to find these without deduction.

The immigrant is required to pay towards defraying his passage home as a consideration for being exempted from industrial service under indenture after the first five years. In the other colonies he is at the end of five years free from industrial service without any payment.

No means are taken for securing that the immigrant, whose contract with his employer is that he is to be paid according to the quantity of his work, shall be released from his contract if he does not receive work sufficient to enable him to earn a just amount of wages. There is provision for this in the regulations of Grenada.

On all these points and on some others the regulations of St. Lucia are less favourable to the immigrants, not only than those of Grenada which have since come before the Government of India, but than those of Trinidad, upon which we are assured that they are based. I do not see in this departure always in the same direction from the original any evidence of the alleged endeavour of the Legislature of St. Lucia to make their laws acceptable to the Home Government, unless indeed there are reasons for relaxation in these matters of which the Government of India is not informed. And, therefore, I cannot recommend that upon the very uncertain chance of a large amendment of the regulations to which they must look for protection, authority should be given for the shipment of Coolies to the colony of St. Lucia.

As regards Grenada, the notification allowing the Act xxxi. of 1855 to take effect may issue.

It is a fault in the law as it now stands that its operation in respect of any colony when once sanctioned, cannot be stopped or suspended except by an Act of the Legislature. I propose that a Bill should be prepared for presentation to the Legislative Council empowering the Governor-General in Council to effect this by notification in the Gazette.

I do not make this proposal with special reference to the question now under consideration, or with any mistrust of the Legislature of Grenada; but because it is right that such a power should be in the hands of the Executive Government ready to be used for the protection of the natives of India as soon as occasion may arise, and because I have received within the last few days, from a private but perfectly trustworthy source, an account of the treatment to which seven hundred Coolie immigrants have been recently exposed at Mauritius, which appears to have been so wantonly barbarous as to call for the earnest interposition of the Government of India when the facts shall have been fully ascertained.

(Signed) CANNING,
August 25, 1856.
GEORGE ANSON,
August 26, 1856.
J. A. DORIN,
August 27, 1856.

MINUTE by the Hon. J. P. GRANT, dated August 29, 1856.

Coolie emigration.

I agree with the Minutes of the Right Hon. the Governor-general.

I think the proposed amendment of the law upon this subject very expedient.

When it is so amended, I think the main objections to the Grenada regulations may be in great part avoided. The salary of 50*l.* a year to be granted to the protector of Indian immigrants is extremely small; so small as almost to give a fictitious appearance to this part of the scheme, in the eyes of those who may not be well acquainted with the circumstances of the colony. It is, however, possible that the number of Coolie emigrants who may proceed to Grenada may be so small that a substantial salary would be disproportionate to the duty, and to the benefit derivable by the colony from the immigration of Indian labourers. On the other hand, the number of such labourers emigrating to Grenada may be large. If they are well paid and treated in the colony, it will equal the wants of the place, whatever they may be. Should this be the result, the salary of the protector should be raised materially. Supposing the proposed amendment of the law to be made, it would be fair to announce to the Government of Grenada that if that colony receives, or is found hereafter to be likely to receive, a numerous body of Indian labourers, the

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Government of India will expect the salary and character of the office of protector to be raised in a due proportion; or otherwise will feel itself bound to suspend the operation of the law permitting emigration under contract from India to that colony.

(Signed) J. P. GRANT.

August 29, 1856.

MINUTE by the Hon. B. PEACOCK, dated September 1, 1856.

Coolie emigration, St. Lucia and Grenada.

I CONCUR entirely with the Right Hon. the Governor-General. In addition to the provisions pointed out by his Lordship's minute of the 25th August, in respect of which the Ordinance of St. Lucia is less favourable than that of Trinidad, I find that sec. 28 of the Trinidad Ordinance has been wholly omitted from that of St. Lucia. By that section the Governor may authorize the agent-general of immigrants to grant a certificate of exemption from industrial residence to any immigrant who from sickness, accident, or other cause shall appear to him incapable of labour, and may send any such immigrant back at the expense of the colony, to the port in India from which he emigrated. Similar enactments are contained in the British Guiana Ordinance, sec. 54, and in the Grenada Ordinance sec. 56. The provision is a most important one, for without it a Coolie, who from sickness or accident may be prevented from earning his livelihood in the colony, may have no means of returning to his family and relations in India.

I had always supposed that it was a very important part of the duties of the protector of immigrants or immigration agent, personally to inspect every vessel arriving at or leaving the colony with immigrants on board, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the provisions of the law have been complied with; to make periodical visits to every estate upon which immigrants are employed; to inspect the immigrants employed upon such estates; to see that they are properly lodged, fed, and treated by their employers; and to inquire into any complaints which the immigrants may have against their employers. Provision is made by the Trinidad Ordinance for the discharge of these duties, but no similar provision is made in the Ordinance for St. Lucia, which was taken from it. Nor are those duties enumerated by the Colonial Commisssioners amongst the principal duties of the immigration agent, see par. 8 of their letter, dated May 14, 1856.

It is stated, however, by the Commissioners that a vigilant superintendence is exercised over immigrant labourers in each district of St. Lucia and Grenada, by the stipendiary magistrates, who send into Government, as long as it is requisite, periodical reports of the treatment and state of immigrants.

The Ordinance for St. Lucia authorizes the stipendiary magistrates to perform this duty, but it does not require them to do so, sec. 22. So also the Grenada Ordinance authorizes but does not require the immigration agent to perform this duty (sec. 52), whereas the Trinidad Ordinance requires the immigration agent to visit every estate on which immigrants are employed, twice at the least in every year. For the present, I think, we may act upon the statement of the Emigration Commissioners that the stipendiary magistrates do in fact exercise a vigilant superintendence over immigrant labourers in the two colonies of St. Lucia and Grenada. But I think it will be right to request the Hon. Court of Directors to obtain through the Colonial Office, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the rules laid down in each of the colonies for the direction and guidance of the stipendiary magistrates with reference to the discharge of this important part of their duty.

It is stated in the letter from the Emigration Commissioners, dated 14th May 1856, that the contribution towards back passages has been wholly abandoned for the present: if so, I think the Ordinances should be amended accordingly; for I am not aware of any resolution binding on the colonies to that effect, and as long as the Ordinances require such contributions, I do not think that the Coolies about to emigrate can fairly be told that such contributions will not be required, and without some guarantee to that effect they will not, in my opinion, be inclined to emigrate. With regard also to the proposed payment of six dollars for every half year which intervenes between the application for a passage home by a Coolie who is entitled to it, and the offer of such back passage, I think full explanation should be made to every Coolie as to the terms upon which he is about to emigrate, and that he should not be led to believe that a back passage will necessarily be provided at the end of ten years. To a man who leaves his family here, a back passage at or near to the time at which he becomes entitled to it, may be of much greater importance than the receipt of six dollars half-yearly until it is provided. My own opinion is that Coolies will not emigrate if they are informed that the providing of them with a return passage may be indefinitely postponed for a payment of six dollars half-yearly. This is a matter, however, for the consideration of the Colonial Government, rather than for that of the Government of India. I do not think that the Government of India need to object if the Coolie is willing to emigrate upon those terms, provided he thoroughly understands before he emigrates what his rights are in that respect, and what he may reasonably expect.

I also think that if the principle be adopted of making a payment to every Coolie for whom a home passage is not provided at the time at which he becomes entitled to it, reasonable notice, say 3 months, ought to be given to the Coolie of the time at which the passage will be provided for him, so as to enable him to put an end to any contract of service by which he may have bound himself in the interval between his application for a

passage home, and the offer of one, and to avail himself of the offer, and that payment at the same rate should be made for the whole of the three months.

With regard to the amendment of the law suggested by the Governor-General, I propose to introduce a Bill into the Legislative Council immediately. I regret to say that from the information received, the Coolies who lately emigrated to the Mauritius appear to have been most cruelly treated.

(Signed) B. PEACOCK.

September 1, 1856.

From CECIL BEADON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to Secretary to the Governments of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay.

SIR, Dated September 12, 1856.

WITH reference to former correspondence as per margin I am directed to forward, for the information of the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of a Despatch from the Honourable Court of Directors, No. 58, dated the 17th June last, and its enclosures, and to inform you that with respect to the Colony of Grenada the Governor-General in Council has been pleased to notify under sec. xvii. Act No. 31 of 1855, that such regulations have been provided, and such measures taken as he deems necessary for the protection of such emigrants during their residence in that colony, and in respect of their return to India.

2. With regard to St. Lucia, the Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the regulations provided and the measures taken are not sufficient for the proper attainment of those objects; and accordingly a further reference has been made to the home authorities in respect to the emigration of Indian labourers to that colony.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor will be careful to instruct the protector to see that the terms upon which labourers are engaged to proceed to the colony of Grenada are carefully explained to and thoroughly understood by each and every one of them, before they are permitted to embark; especially the condition that a back passage will not necessarily be provided for them immediately on the expiry of the term entitling them to it, but that they will receive a payment at the rate of six dollars for every half year between the time when they may become entitled to a back passage and the time when such a passage is offered to them.

I have, &c.

Council Chamber, (Signed) CECIL BEADON,
The 12th September, 1856. Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1375.

Fort William, Home Department,
September 12, 1856.

NOTIFICATION.

Under Section xvii., Act No. 31 of 1855, it is hereby notified that such regulations have been provided and such measures taken as the Governor-General in Council deems necessary for the protection of emigrant labourers, natives of India, during their residence in the Colony of Grenada, and in respect of their return to India.

The said Act will accordingly take effect as to the said Colony of Grenada from this day.

By order of the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council,
(Signed) CECIL BEADON,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure 2 in No. 20. Encl. 2 in No. 20.

Extract of Letter from the Emigration Commissioner to Mr. Merivale, dated 14th January 1857.

SIR,

WE have to acknowledge your letter of the 12th ultimo, enclosing the copy of a letter from the India Board with its enclosures, communicating the grounds on which the Indian Government has allowed emigration to proceed to Grenada but not to St. Lucia.

With regard to Grenada the Supreme Council repeat their observations on the small salary allotted to the immigration agent. They request to be furnished with a copy of the instructions issued to the stipendiary magistrates, who in Grenada (and St. Lucia) have hitherto exercised a superintendence over immigrants after their allotment in the colony; and they state that they have allowed emigration to Grenada to commence on the faith that the provisions suggested by the Secretary of State to the Colonial Legislature will be carried out, and especially those respecting the remittance to India of the property of deceased Coolies, and the compensation for delay in furnishing return passages.

The salary of the immigration agent in Grenada is 50*l.*; and the Supreme Council observe on the contrast which it presents to that granted in British Guiana, where the immigration agent receives 3,360 dollars (or about 700*l.*) a year, and has two sub-agents. In regard to this contrast it should be remembered that the liberated Africans introduced into Grenada in 1849–50 (1,057 in number,) have long since amalgamated with the Creole

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population; that 33 immigrants only were introduced from 1851 to 1855 inclusive; that the number expected in 1856–57 is about 300, and that the finances of Grenada are not likely to support a greater annual immigration; the duties of the immigration agent, therefore, during the first year or two will be very slight. In British Guiana, on the contrary, 17,254 persons (including 9,234 Coolies) were introduced during the above period of 5 years, and 4,300 are ordered for the present season. The immigration agent has also to transact much responsible business connected with the Coolies' applications for back passages, which in Grenada will not be due for 10 years. We feel no doubt, however, that the present salary of the immigration agent is too small, especially as we learn that the office of stipendiary magistrate (so far as it depends on the Home Government) is to be abolished, and that the number of these officers is already so reduced that they cannot perform the services rendered by them during the importation of liberated Africans. Under these circumstances we would suggest that the salary of the immigration agent might properly be raised, from the period when the first shipload of Coolies shall arrive, to 100*l.* or 150*l.* a year.

With regard to the next point it will probably be best to desire the Lieutenant-Governors of Grenada and St. Lucia to forward copies, both of the instructions issued in respect of the liberated Africans introduced in 1849–50, and of those which it is proposed to issue in regard to the Coolies now expected, explaining especially what duties it is intended to impose on the immigration agent, and on the stipendiary magistrates respectively. This information will enable the Secretary of State to judge to what extent the salary of the former officers in St. Lucia should also be raised.

The precautions taken in Grenada and St. Lucia for the well-being of the liberated Africans introduced in 1849 and 1850 are partly exhibited in the correspondence printed in the parliamentary paper, No. 643, of 1850, pp. 245 to 351, which might perhaps be communicated to the Indian Government. It will assist them materially in judging of the degree of care bestowed by colonial governments on matters of this kind.

The provisions suggested to the Legislature of Grenada by the Secretary of State have been already embodied in the Act, No. 256, of last year, on which we reported in our letter of the 17th ultimo. There is, however, one observation in that report which we should qualify. We observed that the Governor's regulations for housing the immigrants omitted to provide for hospital room; but we perceive that provision on this head is expressly made by the Immigration Act. It was, therefore, not necessary to repeat it in the regulations, though it might have been better to have done so. This Act, it will be observed, leaves it entirely in the power of the Lieutenant-Governor (i.e., of the Secretary of State,) to frame regulations as to the property of deceased Coolies and Indian holidays; and we would suggest that the Indian Government should be requested to give the Secretary of State such information respecting their wishes on these points, and especially respecting the mode in which their property should be transmitted to India, in order to secure its proper distribution, and (as suggested in our report of the 14th May last) respecting the holidays to which different classes of Indians are entitled in their own country, as will enable the Lieutenant-Governor of Grenada to frame satisfactory regulations.

We now turn to the island of St. Lucia, to which emigration has been prohibited.

To explain fully the position of this colony it will be necessary to trouble Mr. Labouchere with a very long statement. We can only plead that, long as it is, we fear it may not be sufficiently detailed to prevent misapprehension on a subject which has been perplexed by so many and such intricate controversies.

In his Despatch of the 16th January 1854 the Duke of Newcastle informed the West Indian colonists of the conditions on which the Coolie immigration would be allowed to proceed. In April 1854 the Legislature of St. Lucia framed an Ordinance partly based on these conditions, and in other material respects taken from a Trinidad Ordinance, No. 5, of 1850. Towards the end of 1854 they requested that emigration might be commenced.

This was not at once possible; but in the following spring (1855) the Court of Directors instructed the Indian Government (in effect) to allow emigration to St. Lucia, "when "the same securities are provided for the welfare of the Coolies at St. Lucia and Grenada, "as in the other colonies to which they have heretofore been allowed to emigrate, and also "for their eventual return to India."

The Indian Government, considering the securities provided by the St. Lucia Ordinance to be insufficient, refused to allow the emigration to be commenced in the season 1855–56. (Sir George Clerk to Mr. Merivale, April 14, 1856.)

In a report, dated the 14th of the following May (to which the papers now transmitted from India occasionally refer) we pointed out that the Legislature of St. Lucia had done their best to meet the wishes of the Home Government, and the Court of Directors having "passed an Ordinance taken mainly (with the requisite modifications) from a Trinidad "Ordinance which was known to have been approved by the Home Government," meaning, of course the Ordinance of 1850. It might have been added that the Ordinance thus adopted had been in force for several years, that a considerable immigration had been carried on under it, and consequently that the conditions on which the Court of Directors had consented that emigration to St. Lucia should be commenced had been literally performed.

It happened, however, (unfortunately for the colonists of St. Lucia) that while in 1854

they were passing the above Immigration Ordinance in their colony, this Board was engaged in framing a draft Immigration Law, intended not indeed to be made compulsory in its details, but to facilitate proper legislation on this subject in the West Indies. This draft, which was framed on a comparison of the different existing laws, as modified by the fresh terms of immigration then sanctioned, was forwarded in March 1854 to British Guiana, Trinidad, and Grenada. In the course of the autumn, laws based more or less on this draft were passed in all these colonies, and, we perceive, communicated to the Indian Government. The Trinidad Ordinance was passed on the 17th November 1854, seven months subsequent to the above mentioned St. Lucia Ordinance, which had received the Lieutenant-Governor's assent on the 22nd of April. The Indian Government not adverting to this difference of date, appear to have assumed that the Trinidad Ordinance of 1854 served as a model for that of St. Lucia, and, entertaining apparently some distrust of our statements on the subject, they have caused a careful collation to be made of the two laws, excepting, unfortunately, the dates. This collation has, of course, brought to light a variety of points in which the provisions of the revised law of Trinidad appear more complete than those in the unrevised law of St. Lucia; and the results being submitted to the Governor-General, his Lordship states in the following words the conclusion to which he is led by them.

"On all these points, and on some others, the regulations of St. Lucia are less favourable to the immigrants, not only than those of Grenada, which have since come before the Government of India, but than those of Trinidad, upon which we are assured that they are based. I do not see in this departure, always in the same direction, from the original, any evidence of the alleged endeavour of the Legislature of St. Lucia to make their laws acceptable to the Home Government, unless indeed there are reasons for relaxation in these matters of which the Government of India is not informed; and therefore I cannot recommend that, upon the very uncertain chance of a large amendment of the regulations to which they must look for protection, authority should be given for the shipment of Coolies to the colony of St. Lucia."

The Council concur in the view taken by the Governor-General, and after a full statement of the various objections to which the St. Lucia law is considered open, decide that emigration to that island shall not be permitted.

Remembering the importance attaching to the supply of labour to the West Indies, the gratitude with which the introduction of liberated Africans was received in St. Lucia and Grenada, the care which was taken by the authorities to secure their welfare (of which some evidence is contained in the Parliamentary papers to which we have referred,) the promptitude of the Legislature in adopting all the provisions which they supposed to be required, or that in fact were required either at that time by the Secretary of State, or subsequently by the Court of Directors' letter of the 28th February 1855, and the length of time (nearly three years) which will have elapsed between the passing of the Ordinance and the first opportunity which will have been given to the Legislature of explaining or amending the provisions which are now thought objectionable. We cannot, we confess, disguise our regret that a misconception so easily explained should have led to another disappointment.

I may be asked, however, and we are bound to explain how it happpened that we ourselves recommended the confirmation of the St. Lucia Ordinance, which did not contain the provisions which are now insisted upon by the Indian Governmentt, and some of which we proposed in the model Ordinance afterwards sent out to the West Indies. We need hardly, however, remind the Secretary of State of the jealousy caused in the colonies by interference with the minute details of local legislation, and in no department, perhaps, so much as in that of West Indian emigration, in which continued controversies, and the alterations which have resulted from them, have produced an amount of susceptibility in some of the Legislatures, and of intricacy in the laws, embarrassing even to those who are most familiar with the subject. We were therefore extremely anxious not to insist, or to have the appearance of insisting on any provisions which were not material for the protection of the Indian immigrants. The provisions which are noticed as wanting by the Indian Government we could not well have treated as material, since only one of them (to which we shall particularly refer herafter,) is to be found in the law of Trinidad, under which emigration had long been carried on, and the emigrants had been (according to the evidence of Mr. Caird) on the whole well treated. We thought, therefore, that we were taking the most prudent course in recommending that the St. Lucia Ordinance should be sanctioned.

But, even independently of the precedent of Trinidad, we must frankly confess that we should not as then advised have objected to the Ordinance on the grounds enumerated by the Supreme Council for reasons which we proceed to give.

It is objected (1) that no provision is made (para. 57) for the inspection of Coolie ships, for the reception, lodging, or feeding of immigrants previous to their allotment, nor to prevent separation of families, or for the supervision of immigrant labourers.

On this we have to state that no legislative Act is required in the West Indian Colonies to secure the performance of the above duties. The inspection of Coolie ships on arrival is effectually insured by our own charter-parties, under which no freight is payable without a certificate from the proper Government officer that the service has been performed

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according to the terms of the engagement, which are very specific, and the inspection of return Coolie ships on departure is secured by the Imperial Passenger Act. But all the functions above enumerated are those of officers acting under the immediate orders of the Executive, and have been regularly performed under mere directions from the Governor in Trinidad, and (while immigration was in progress) in Grenada and St. Lucia. The legislative body of British Guiana, which possesses certain executive functions, and is therefore, we believe, accustomed to interfere in executive details, has indeed prescribed the immigration officer's duties in its Ordinance, which the Grenada Legislature have simply copied. But the model law sent out from home left these details almost entirely in the hands of the Government.

The same kind of answer is applicable to the objection (par. 8) that stipendiary magistrates are only authorized, but not required, to inspect and receive complaints upon the estates on which Coolies are located. Legislation is of course necessary to authorize Government officers to enter on private property for the purpose of inspecting Coolies, else employers of Coolies might obstruct such inspection. But it did not occur to us that any advantage worth insisting on would be gained by requiring the Legislature to define the duties of officers who receive their appointment and instructions from the Executive acting under directions from the Secretary of State.

Objection 2.—Deductions are made from the immigrant's wages for medical attendance and provision grounds.

The indentured immigrant is to receive (vide form of indenture, Schedule A,) the same rate of wages as unindentured labourers, who, we understand, never receive medical attendance gratis, nor necessarily lodging or provision grounds. If this is so, it seems primâ facie fair that the Coolie labourer should pay for these advantages, else he would receive virtually not the same but a higher rate of wages than other labourers. The law, however, might be easily placed on such a footing as to secure that the Coolie should not be worse off than the Creole. We are bound to state, however, that such deductions are contemplated in the model law framed in this country.

Objection 3.—The immigrant is required to pay towards defraying his passage home, as a consideration for being exempted from industrial service under indenture after "the first "five years, but in the other colonies he is at the end of five years free from industrial "service without any payment."

We quote here the exact words of the Supreme Council, because we cannot but feel some doubt whether we understand them rightly.

We collect that the Indian Government is under the impression that St. Lucia stands alone in requiring the Coolie to contribute to his return passage as a condition of being relieved from the obligation of industrial residence after five years. We would submit, however, that this principle is embodied alike in all the Ordinances now under consideration (St. Lucia, sections 9, 24, British Guiana, section 53, Trinidad, section 27, Grenada, section 55), and in the British Guiana and Grenada laws with greater stringency and significance than in that of St. Lucia. The British Guiana Ordinance (section 53) recites in terms that the reduction of industrial residence is to be made "on certain conditions," and proceeds accordingly to enact that the immigrant must remain under indenture for the whole of his ten years residence, or pay a specific sum of 35 dollars towards his back passage. The law of Grenada makes the same provision, only omitting the recital. The law of St. Lucia (which is, in its legal effect, identical with that of Trinidad) we have always considered to be much less stringent; discharging the immigrant absolutely from the latter part of his industrial residence on consideration of such a contribution towards his return passage not exceeding 35 dollars (or which is the same thing 7*l.* 10*s.*) as the Lieutenant-Governor shall appoint by proclamation. This is in effect to place the colony entirely in the hands of the Secretary of State, who need not unless he think fit authorize any proclamation whatever. As the Coolies have been told that they will receive free passages home, the Secretary of State will in point of fact not authorize the proclamation of any contribution, and if the law remained as it was submitted to the Indian Government, the Coolies would in St. Lucia (though not in British Guiana or Grenada) gain all that is now claimed for them.

But this is not likely to be the case, for the principle here advanced by the Indian Government, though reconcileable with the existing provisions of the St. Lucia Ordinance, is quite irreconcileable with the enactments which successive Secretaries of State have authorized the West Indian colonists to pass.

We understand the Supreme Council to require that, irrespectively of any contribution towards his return passage, the Coolie shall, during the last five years of his stay in the colony, be relieved from the obligation which constitutes industrial residence, the obligation, namely, either to labour under indenture or to pay a tax.

On the other hand, Secretaries of State have in successive despatches informed the West Indian colonies that, since the Coolies positively refused to contribute towards their back passages, laws may be passed to enforce ten years of industrial residence; they have prescribed the precise form of industrial residence which they would be prepared to sanction, and they have approved laws passed in accordance with their instructions. Nor was this course taken without what was supposed to be full authority from the Indian Government. A letter addressed by Mr. Plowden, officiating Secretary to the Government of India, to

Mr. C. Beadon, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, on the 2d of Sept. 1853, and communicated to the Colonial Office on the 3d of the following November, contains the following passage:—

"You will be good enough, therefore, to make known this decision to the emigration agent and protector of emigrants without delay, instructing them to be very careful to see that the nature of the alteration is distinctly explained to future emigrants, namely, that they will be entitled to return at the end of five years' industrial residence as now, but at their own expense. To entitle them to a free return passage they will have to serve an industrial residence of ten years instead of five years as now."

Mr. Labouchere is fully aware that the communications which have been addressed to the West Indian Governments on the faith of this communication, and especially his own despatch to Governor Wodehouse, No. 50, of the 27th March 1856 (in which he states that immigrants during the last five years of their residence may be required either to labour under indenture or to pay a tax of 2*l.* 10*s.* per annum), constitute a pledge respecting the future conduct of immigration, from which it would be impossible to recede without the most serious injury to the credit of the Home Government. Far, therefore, from being at liberty to object (on this head) to the existing law of St. Lucia, the Secretary of State (with the sanction, we submit, of the Indian Government) has pledged himself to allow the Legislature to increase its stringency.

Objection 4.—There is no provision to secure that immigrants paid by the "task" shall not be left without work, and, consequently, without wages.

We apprehend that the increasing demand for labour in all the West Indian islands (with one or two exceptions) renders this contingency so extremely improbable that this provision is by no means likely to be ever called into play. It is, however, no doubt proper.

Objection 5.—The Lieutenant-Governor is not empowered to send back to India at the public expense Indians incapable of work.

As a legislative acknowledgment of the duty of Government, this provision should perhaps have been inserted in the St. Lucian Ordinance, more especially as it is found in the Trinidad Ordinance of 1850. But we must observe that the clause would confer on the Lieutenant-Governor no power which he does not possess without it. Under the 27th Clause of the St. Lucia Ordinance, he may make an order "for the return of any "Coolie immigrant to the place whence he may come (*i.e.* remit his industrial residence), "and as St. Lucia is a Crown colony, he may without the sanction of the Legislature "pay his passage thither from public funds. In British Guiana and Grenada the omitted "clause is indispensable, because they are not Crown colonies, but possess representative "or quasi representative Legislatures, without whose concurrence the Executive cannot "expend any public money.

The remaining observations of the Supreme Council concern all the West Indian colonies equally.

Objection 6.—If it is understood that the Coolie is not to pay a contribution towards his back passage (which is the case), he ought not to remain legally subject to that contribution. We have, however, already pointed out that the Coolie is not legally subject to these payments under any of the laws now under consideration, or, we may add, under the amended laws of British Guiana and Grenada. In St. Lucia and Trinidad he is only subject to such contribution as the Secretary of State may sanction (*i.e.* to none); and in British Guiana and Grenada he has the option of completing ten years' industrial residence on the principle sanctioned by Mr. Plowden's letter above quoted, or of paying 35 dollars when he leaves the colony. To deprive him of that option would evidently be no advantage, but the contrary.

It is true that the present clauses in the laws of St. Lucia and Trinidad are awkward and useless, and they will probably be altered, but they do not impose any obligation on the Coolie or curtail his right to a back passage.

On the delays which may occur in giving return passages the Indian Government observe that if the Indian is not to receive a return passage immediately on the expiration of his industrial residence he ought not to be led to expect one, and they remark that Coolies should have at least three months notice of the time at which they will receive their back passages, in order to enable them to put an end to any engagements which they may have contracted.

The protectors of immigrants have been accordingly instructed to explain to immigrants that "a back passage will not necessarily be provided for them immediately on the expiry "of the term entitling them to it, but that they will receive a payment at the rate of six "dollars for every half year between the time when they may become entitled to a back "passage and the time when such a passage is offered to them."

This caution appears to have been suggested by the 10th paragraph of our Report of the 14th May 1856, with reference to which we wish to explain clearly the actual position of the immigrants. The Colonial Governments stand pledged by all their laws to give a back passage as soon as possible after it is due, and it will of course be the duty of the home Government to see to the performance of this pledge.

From practical difficulties, aided in Jamaica by financial embarrassments, too much delay occurred in supplying the first return passages, but we believe that every effort is made in the two colonies now concerned (British Guiana and Trinidad) to supply them as they are

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demanded. But various circumstances, among which are the impossibility of sending back Coolies in small parties, the difficulty of ascertaining their real intentions as to their return to India, the period (18 months) properly allowed to each Coolie for preferring his claim, the necessity of suspending the re-emigration for half of the year, and of sending to England for shipping, render it impracticable to effect this with perfect punctuality, or to avoid an occasional, or even a frequent delay, of several months. We hope it will be understood by the Coolies that the half-yearly payment of six dollars is meant as a compensation for this often unavoidable delay, and not as entitling the Government to keep them in the West Indies for an indefinite time.

Encl. 3 in No. 20.

Enclosure 3 in No. 20.

ST. LUCIA DRAFT ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend an Ordinance passed in the 17th year of Her present Majesty, intituled, No. 3 of 1854, An Ordinance to provide for the Immigration of Coolies into this Colony at the public Expense, and for the Regulation and Government of Immigrants:

Be it therefore, and it is hereby enacted, &c.

1. The term Lieutenant-Governor shall include any person lawfully administering the government of the colony, and the term Immigration Agent shall include any stipendiary magistrate or other person appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor to exercise any of the functions of the Immigration Agent.

2. That it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council from time to time to make regulations for allowing to Indian labourers such holidays or days to be observed as religious festivals as to him shall seem fit.

3. That it shall be the duty of the Immigration Agent to collect and take possession of the property of any Indian immigrant who shall die in this colony, and (with the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor) to deliver all such property to any person in the colony who shall establish a right to the same, or in the absence of any such person to turn the said property into money, and pay the proceeds into the colonial treasury, in order that the same may be remitted to the persons in India or elsewhere who shall be entitled thereto.

4. That it shall be lawful for the Governor to make all regulations necessary for giving effect to the provisions of the last preceding clause, and any person contravening such regulations shall be liable, on conviction thereof before [insert name of Court], to a penalty not exceeding *5l.*

5. That the Immigration Agent shall board every ship arriving in the colony with Indian immigrants, and shall ascertain and report to the Lieutenant-Governor the number of immigrants embarked in her, the state of their health, the number of deaths which have occurred on the voyage, and whether the provisions of the charter-party under which such immigrants have been conveyed from India have been performed; and the said Immigration Agent shall thereupon assign the said immigrants to planters who shall be ready to employ them in manner provided by the Ordinance, No. 3 of 1854, and till such assignment shall provide them with proper and sufficient food and lodging. Provided always, that the wages payable to the said immigrants (subject to the deductions mentioned in the Schedule to the said Ordinance) shall be equal to the wages paid to labour not receiving gratis medical attendance, lodging, or provision grounds. Provided also, that in such allotment the wishes of the immigrants shall as far as possible be ascertained and attended to, and that in no case whatever shall any husband and wife, nor any parent and child, be allotted to different employers.

6. That the Immigration Agent shall at least twice in the course of every year inspect every estate on which Indian labourers are employed, and shall ascertain whether such immigrants are properly treated, and shall inquire into any complaints which may be made by the employer against the immigrants, or by the immigrants against the employer, and shall report the result to the Lieutenant-Governor.

7. That it shall be lawful for the Immigration Agent, with the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor, to cancel the contract of service of any immigrant, who being paid according to the quantity of his work shall not have received work sufficient in the opinion of the said Immigration Agent to enable him to earn a reasonable amount of wages.

8. That in respect of all ships leaving the colony with return immigrants, the Immigration Agent shall perform all the duties imposed on emigration officers in England by the Passengers' Act, 1855.

9. That the 9th and 24th Sections of the aforesaid Ordinance, No. 3 of 1854, are repealed, and the same are hereby repealed accordingly.

10. That every Coolie emigrant shall be entitled to a free passage back to India [who shall have completed an industrial residence in the colony of five years in manner provided by the aforesaid Ordinance, No. 3 of 1854, and a further industrial residence of five years in the manner authorized by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies; that is to say, either by serving for the said period of five years under written contracts of service for periods of not less than one year each, or by paying a tax of 2*s.* 6*d.*

for every month which shall be wanting to complete such further five years' service.]* Provided always that no such free passage shall be applied for except within eighteen months of the time at which it shall have become due [nor until the applicant shall have resided in the colony for 10 years.] *

11. That the Lieutenant-Governor shall give to each applicant for a return passage at least three months' notice, as precise as circumstances render possible, of the period at which such passage will be offered him.

12. That there shall be paid to every Indian immigrant who shall become entitled to a free passage to India the sum of twenty-five shillings for every six calendar months which shall intervene between his application for such passage and his receiving an actual offer of an opportunity for the same.

13. The Lieutenant-Governor may provide a back passage at the expense of the colony for any immigrant who may have become unfit for labour at any period of his industrial residence.

14. That except as provided by the Ordinance No. 3 of 1854, no contract of service made for a period of more than three months by any Indian immigrant not having completed his industrial residence shall be valid as against such immigrant, unless it shall have been made in the presence of and approved by the Immigration Agent, nor unless there shall have been paid to such Immigration Agent the sum of twelve shillings and sixpence for every period of six months for which such contract is to endure.

No. 21.

No. 21.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 41.)

SIR, Downing Street, March 18, 1857.

WITH reference to your Despatch, St. Lucia, No. 4,* of the 26th of January, upon Coolie emigration to St. Lucia, I transmit for your information the copy of a letter from the Board of Treasury, to which department your Despatch was communicated.

* Page 401.

Enclosure. 12th March 1857.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Encl. in No. 21.

SIR, Treasury Chambers, March 12, 1857.

HAVING laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury your letter of the 5th instant, transmitting copy of a Despatch from the Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, relative to the means of providing funds for the emigration of Coolies to St. Lucia:

I am directed by their Lordships to acquaint you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, that it was not their intention by their letter of 24th November last to object to the confirmation of the Ordinance No. 6, for suspending the duties on the export of sugar, rum, and molasses, but merely to intimate that so long as that Ordinance was in force no money could be raised on account of the guaranteed loan to St. Lucia.

Their Lordships were at the time fully satisfied that the suspension of the duties did not affect the security afforded by the Ordinance of 1854, and no difficulty was raised on their part against the suspending Ordinance.

I have further to state, that as the Government of India has declined giving their sanction to the emigration of Coolies to St. Lucia, it will be inexpedient to raise any money under the Ordinance of 1854 till the objections of that Government are removed.

I am, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

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* If the Legislature of St. Lucia should be prepared to dispense with the industrial character of the second five years of the Coolie's residence, the following provisions may be substituted for those between brackets:—"who shall have resided ten years in the Colony, and during the said ten years shall have completed an industrial residence of five years in manner prescribed by the aforesaid Ordinance, No. 3 of 1854."

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No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 48.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 2, 1857.

I TRANSMIT for your information the enclosed extracts from a report of the Emigration Commissioners on various points connected with Coolie emigration to the West Indies, together with the copy of a further report from them upon the subject.

Extract. 22nd April 1857. Vide page 129.

I also annex a copy of the answer which I have directed to be returned to those reports, from which you will see how far I have authorized the Commissioners to carry out the several suggestions they have made.

2nd May 1857. Vide page 131.

25th May 1857. Vide page 132.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 23.

No. 23.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 50.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 12, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you the copy of a report from the Emigration Commissioners forwarding a letter from Mr. Caird relative to the treatment of Coolies.

I request that you will call the attention of the Officer administering the Government of St. Lucia to the remarks of the Commissioners as to the rate of wages obtainable in the several colonies, and that you will instruct him to supply the information as to the current rate of wages in the colony applied for in the report of the Emigration Commissioners, dated 14th May 1856, which was forwarded in my Despatch, No. 18, of the 31st of that month.

2nd June 1857. Vide page 133.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 24.

No. 24.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 53.)

SIR, Downing Street, June 19, 1857.

I HAVE received your Despatch, St. Lucia, No. 18,* of the 25th of April, respecting the guaranteed loan to be raised in order to provide funds for the emigration of Coolies to that island.

* Page 402.

I forwarded a copy of that Despatch to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and I transmit for your information a copy of their Lordships' reply.

10th June 1857. Enclosure.

I have to authorize you to submit to the Council the Ordinance proposed in your Despatch to enable Her Majesty to revive the provisions of the Ordinance of 1854.

I have, &c.

Governor Hincks, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Encl. in No. 24.

Enclosure in No. 24.

SIR, Treasury Chambers, June 10, 1857.

HAVING laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury your letter of the 1st instant, transmitting copy of a Despatch from the Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, respecting the guaranteed loan to be raised in order to provide funds for the emigration of Coolies to St. Lucia:

I am directed by their Lordships to acquaint you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, that in order to avoid any difficulty that may arise in regard to the raising of money for St. Lucia, so soon as the Indian Government shall have withdrawn their objections to Coolie emigration to that colony, my Lords will not object to the proposal of the Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, that an Ordinance should be passed enabling Her Majesty, by Order in Council or otherwise, to revive the provisions of the Ordinance of 1854 whenever it may be deemed expedient to do so.

Their Lordships would at the same time refer Mr. Labouchere to their letter of the 12th March on this subject, and remind him that it was never their intention to require "the planters to continue to pay export duties which may never be required," or to "invoke the suspending Ordinance as a reason for stopping the Coolie emigration." Indeed it is difficult to imagine what could have led Governor Hincks to adopt this construction of that letter, or of any previous portion of the correspondence on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JAMES WILSON.

H. Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

No. 25.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 57.)

SIR, Downing Street, July 1, 1857.

WITH reference to your Despatch, St. Lucia, No. 19,* of the 25th of April, I transmit for your information a copy of a letter which will be sent to the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, on the subject of the prohibition by the Indian Government of Coolie emigration to that island.

* Page 403.

7th July 1857.
Enclosure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Hincks,
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 25.

Encl. in No. 25.

SIR, Downing Street, July 7, 1857.

WITH reference to my letter of the 3rd March last, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to transmit to you a copy of a Despatch from the Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, with copy of one from the Officer administering the Government of St. Lucia, with its several enclosures, on the subject of the prohibition by the Indian Government of Coolie immigration into that island.

I am to request that you will move the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to forward copies of these papers to the Court of East India Directors, with an expression of Mr. Labouchere's hope, that although the Ordinance alluded to has not yet been received, the explanations and information now sent from St. Lucia will satisfy the Court, and also he Governor and Council of India, that the emigration of Coolies to that island may safely be authorized without further delay. I am to add, that a copy of the Ordinance will be forwarded to you immediately on its receipt.

The Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners will be desired to instruct the Emigration Agents in India to ascertain the decision of the Governor and Council, and on obtaining their consent at once to take up one ship for the conveyance of Coolies to St. Lucia.

(Signed) H. MERIVALE.

No. 26.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 62.)

SIR, Downing Street, July 30, 1857.

WITH reference to my Despatch, St. Lucia, No. 57,† of the 1st instant, I transmit for your information the copy of a letter from the India Board enclosing the copy of a Despatch which has been addressed by the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Government of India, relative to the removal of the prohibition of emigration to St. Lucia.

† Above.
Enclosure.
21st July 1857.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Governor Hincks,
&c. &c.

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Enclosure in No. 26.

Encl. in No. 26.

Sub-Enclosure.

SIR, India Board, July 21, 1857.

WITH reference to your letter of the 7th instant, I am directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to transmit to you, for the information of Mr. Labouchere, a copy of a Despatch which has been addressed by the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Government of India respecting the proposed scheme of emigration from India to St. Lucia.

I am, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq., &c. &c.

(Signed) GEORGE CLERK.

Sub-Enclosure to No. 26.

Sub-Enclosure to No. 26.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Governor General of India in Council.

India House, July 1857.

WITH reference to our Despatch in this department, dated 18th March (No. 47) 1857, relating to a proposed scheme of Coolie emigration from India to St. Lucia, we now forward for your consideration a copy of a letter from the Under-Secretary at the Colonial Office, dated 7th July 1857, with its enclosures, from the Governor of the Windward Islands on the subject, and we direct that the prohibition placed on this scheme may be at once removed, should you be of opinion that under the explanations and information now furnished due provision will be made for the interests and welfare of Coolie labourers. We shall forward to you a copy of the Ordinance referred to in Mr. Merivale's letter immediately on its receipt.

Despatches from Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke and Governor Hincks.

No. 1. No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 16.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, May 22, 1854.
(Received June 15, 1854.)
(Answered, No. 8, July 26, 1854, page 370.)

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Grace authenticated transcripts of two Ordinances of St. Lucia, entitled,—No. 2. "An Ordinance to raise a "Loan for promoting the Immigration of Coolie Labourers into the Island of Saint Lucia;" and No. 3. "An Ordinance to provide for the Immigration of Coolies into this Colony at the public Expense, and for the Regulation and Government of such Immigrants;" together with the reports of the Attorney-General thereupon, and the correspondence which has passed on the subject of these enactments.

Appendix, No. 25, page 492.

Appendix, No. 26, page 493.

I have, &c.

The Duke of Newcastle, &c. &c. (Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Enclosure 1.
Enclosure 2.
Enclosure 3.
Enclosure 4.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1. Encl. 1 in No. 1.

(No. 18.)

SIR, St. Lucia, March 6, 1854.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency an ordinance to "raise a Loan for promoting the Immigration of Coolie Immigrants into the Island of St. Lucia," together with the report of the Attorney-General thereon.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Barbadoes. (Signed) MAURICE POWER.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1. Encl. 2 in No. 1.

(No. 239.)

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbadoes, March 9, 1854.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 18, dated 6th instant, enclosing copy of an ordinance passed by the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, entitled "An Ordinance to raise a Loan for promoting the Immigration of Coolie Immigrants into the Island of St. Lucia," also a report from the Attorney-General upon this ordinance, to which you have my authority to give your assent.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor of St. Lucia. (Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1. Encl. 3 in No. 1.

(No. 32.)

SIR, St. Lucia, May 5, 1854.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith "An Ordinance for the Immigration of Coolies into this Colony at the public Expense," together with the Attorney-General's opinion thereon.

As this ordinance is framed on the principles laid down by his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, in his Despatch of the 16th of January last, to the Governor of Demerara, I trust it will be found unobjectionable.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Barbadoes. (Signed) MAURICE POWER.

ST. LUCIA.

Enclosure 4 in No. 1.

Encl. 4 in No. 1.

(No. 249.)

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbadoes, May 9, 1854.

I HAVE received your Despatch, enclosing "An Ordinance passed by the Council of St. Lucia to provide for the Immigration of Coolies into the Colony at the public Expense, and for the Regulation and Government of such Immigrants," together with a report from the Attorney-General thereupon.

As the ordinance appears to have been framed in accordance with the principles laid down by the Secretary of State, in his Despatch of the 16th January last, to the Governor of British Guiana, you have my authority to give your assent to it.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor of St. Lucia. (Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 33.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, October 23, 1854.

(Received November 17, 1854.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 21, December 27, 1854, page 371.)

Enclosure 1. No. 72. 20th Oct. 1854. Enclosure 2. No. 279. 23rd Oct. 1854.

I HAVE the honour to enclose copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Lucia, together with my reply, relative to an Ordinance to which I have authorized him to assent, for repealing the 25th clause of the Coolie Immigration Ordinance, together with a Minute of the Council in which it is stated that from 400 to 500 Coolies might be sent during the ensuing season.

An authenticated copy of the ordinance will be forwarded as soon as received.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 2.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

(No. 72.)

SIR, St. Lucia, October 20, 1854.

REFERRING to your Despatch, No. 274, of the 26th August last, enclosing copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, marked No. 8, of the 26th July last, in which he expresses an opinion that the clause in Ordinance, No. 3 of 1854, which authorizes the commutation of the right to a return passage, should be repealed, I have the honour to inform you that his opinion has been acted upon by the Council which sat on the 10th instant, as will appear from the accompanying ordinance. I have also to inform you, for the information of Sir George Grey, that the number of Coolie immigrants which the Council would wish to be sent to St. Lucia in the ensuing season is from 400 to 500, as will appear from the enclosed extract from the minutes of the proceedings of the Legislative Council held on the 10th instant.

Sub-Enclosure.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Barbadoes. (Signed) MAURICE POWER.

Sub-Encl. to Encl. 1 in No. 2.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Legislative Council held in the Council Chamber, Castries, this 10th Day of October 1854.

A Despatch, No. 274, from the Governor-in-Chief, was then read, with enclosures, from the Secretary of State, announcing the gracious allowance by Her Majesty of the Coolie Immigration Ordinance, that the Loan Ordinance was under consideration, requiring that the number of Coolies desired should be stated without delay, and directing the repeal of the 25th clause of the Coolie Ordinance.

The Board, after some discussion, expressed an opinion that from 400 to 500 Coolies might be sent during the ensuing season.

Enclosure 2 in No. 2. ST. LUCIA.

Encl. 2 in No. 2.

(No. 279.)

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbadoes, October 23, 1854.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 72, of the 20th October, enclosing the draft of an Ordinance passed by the Council of St. Lucia to repeal the 25th clause of the Coolie Immigration Ordinance, anthorizing the commutation of the right to a return passage, with a report of the Attorney-General, and to which you have my authority to give your assent.

To save time, a copy of your Despatch, with the Minute of Council, will be transmitted to the Secretary of State, and the ordinance forwarded as soon as an authenticated copy of it has been received.

I have, &c.

His Excellency (Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.
The Lieutenant-Governor of St. Vincent.

No. 3

No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 38.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, November 7, 1854.
(Received December 2, 1854.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 23, Dec. 23, 1854, page 372.)

REFERRING to my Despatch No. 33,* of the 23rd ultimo, I have now the honour to lay before you an authenticated transcript of Ordinance No. 6, of St. Lucia, "to repeal the 25th Clause of the Coolie Immigration Ordinance," with the report of the Attorney-General thereon.

* Page 400.

Appendix, No. 27, page 499.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 4.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, January 26, 1857.
(Received February 20, 1857.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 41, March 18, 1857, page 395.)

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 9th December, St. Lucia, No. 35,† enclosing copy of a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners relative to the means of providing funds for the emigration of Coolies to Grenada and St. Lucia. In a postscript to that Despatch you informed me that the Government of India had declined giving their sanction to the emigration of Coolies to St. Lucia, and that you hoped to communicate to me by the next mail, and that in the meantime I was to take no steps in the matter. Not having heard from you on the subject by the following mail, I deem it my duty to call your attention to the circumstances under which the St. Lucia Ordinance, No. 2 of 1854, was temporarily suspended. That Ordinance provided the ways and means for defraying the cost of the Coolie immigration, but as no action had been taken by the Imperial Treasury department in consequence, and as ample funds were already in hand, it was deemed expedient to suspend it, not permanently, but for one year. This suspension did not in the least affect the security afforded by the Ordinance of 1854; and had it been supposed by the Legislative Council of St. Lucia that any difficulty would have been raised by the Treasury in consequence, the suspending Ordinance would not have been passed. The St. Lucia Legislature naturally objected to the paymentof a tax for immigration purposes where no steps were taken to procure the loan for the payment of which the tax was imposed. I fully explained the object of the Ordinance which temporarily suspended the tax Ordinance of 1854, when I transmitted it, and I now deem it my duty to press on your consideration that the suspension for a single year of the collec-

† Page 382.

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tion of duties imposed by a permanent ordinance cannot impair the security. I infer, however, from the postscript to your Despatch of the 9th December that the Government of India has declined sanctioning the emigration to St. Lucia on other grounds with which I have not yet been acquainted. My present object is to endeavour to remove the difficulty which has been made at the Treasury, and which appears to me to be without foundation. The St. Lucia Legislature has made sufficient provision for the loan for immigration purposes, and has only temporarily suspended the ordinance because no steps were taken to raise the loan.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) F. HINCKS.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 18.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, April 25, 1857.

(Received May 13, 1857.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 53, June 19, 1857, page 396.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 18th ultimo, St. Lucia, No. 41,* transmitting for my information the copy of a letter from the Board of Treasury, dated the 12th ultimo, with reference to my Despatch, St. Lucia, No. 4, of the 26th January, on the subject of the guaranteed loan which it will be necessary to raise in order to provide funds for the emigration of Coolies to St. Lucia.

* Page 395.

2. As the Government of India has declined to sanction this emigration the decision of the Treasury has caused no inconvenience to the colony of St. Lucia; but I am most anxious to prevent the possibility of any delay taking place in the event of the withdrawal of the present objections.

3. The letter from the Board of Treasury seems to me to have been written under an impression that I had remonstrated against their opposition to the confirmation of the St. Lucia Ordinance suspending the export duties on sugar, rum, and molasses. The Board disclaim any intention of objecting to the confirmation of the suspending Ordinance, but state their object to have been "merely to intimate that so long as that Ordinance was in force no money "could be raised on account of the guaranteed loan to St. Lucia."

4. You are already well aware of the urgent nature of the demand for labour made by the planters of St. Lucia, and I need scarcely assure you that they would be ready to submit to any reasonable sacrifice to obtain it.

5. What I am anxious to impress on you is, that it would have been more satisfactory to the Legislature of St. Lucia that the suspending ordinance should have been disallowed than that it should have been invoked as a reason for stopping the Coolie immigration.

6. The correctness of the principle of the suspending ordinance has been admitted by the Board of Treasury. A considerable sum has been already raised for emigration purposes in St. Lucia, and considering the difficulties thrown in the way by the Government of India, and the present uncertainty as to any satisfactory result, it is hardly reasonable to compel the planters to continue to pay export duties which may never be required.

7. It being expedient and just that the export duties should be suspended until the commencement of the emigration to St. Lucia, and it being at the same time absolutely necessary that no delay should take place owing to inadequate financial arrangements, it has occurred to me that an ordinance might be passed suspending the operation of the permanent one during the pleasure of the Crown.

8. This would, it appears to me, obviate all difficulty at the Treasury, as the permanent ordinance might be revived by proclamation whenever it was deemed expedient by the Board of Treasury to negotiate the loan.

9. Before, however, recommending such a measure to the Legislature, I should be glad to learn from you whether it would meet your approval, and whether, in the event of its becoming law, any difficulty would arise in procuring

the necessary funds for emigration to St. Lucia whenever the sanction of the Indian Government should be obtained.

10. Should you approve of such a measure it would be desirable, in order to avoid unnecessary delay, that the permanent Ordinance should be revived by a proclamation in the "Royal Gazette" in London.

11. Should you disapprove of my suggestion, I should be glad to be honoured with your instructions as to the best mode of dealing with the question as early as possible, as the period is approaching when it will be necessary for me to visit St. Lucia to meet the Legislative Council, and to arrange the financial measures for 1858.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) F. HINCKS.

No. 6.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 19.) Windward Islands, Barbadoes, April 25, 1857.

(Received May 13, 1857.)

SIR, (Answered, No. 57, July 1, 1857 page 397.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch, dated the 20th instant, from Mr. Drysdale, administrator of the Government of St. Lucia, having reference to your Despatch* of the 3d ultimo, covering several enclosures on the subject of Coolie emigration to that colony.

No. 38. 20th April 1857.

* Page 382.

2. Before submitting for your consideration the few remarks which I feel called on to add to those of Mr. Drysdale, I should wish to be clearly understood as offering no opinion whatever, either as to the expediency of importing Coolie labourers into the West Indies, or as to the financial arrangements under which that importation has taken place.

3. It is the established policy of Her Majesty's Government to aid in carrying on an emigration of Coolies from India to the West India colonies, and such being the case, it is my duty to urge the superior claims of such colonies within the Windward Island Government, excluding Barbadoes, as may desire to avail themselves of the services of those labourers.

4. I believe that I am not mistaken in affirming that at the commencement of this emigration the principal argument used in its favour was, that in order to secure the cultivation of the sugar estates, abandoned by the Creole labourers for more profitable employment, it was necessary that labourers should be imported.

5. Such an argument may still be used with entire truth as regards St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Vincent, whereas in British Guiana and Trinidad I apprehend that a considerable extent of new land has been brought into cultivation in consequence of the great increase of labour.

6. While I have no desire to complain that the planters in other colonies have had their demands for labourers satisfied to so considerable an extent, I must nevertheless remind you that the planters in St. Lucia and Grenada must naturally feel mortified at the delays and obstructions which they have experienced, and to which I shall now briefly advert.

7. It seems to me that the error, if I may without impropriety use such a term, into which the Government of India has fallen, consists in altogether ignoring the existence of executive officers in all these colonies, subject to the instructions of the Secretary of State, and obliged to report constantly on all subjects for his information.

8. The Government of India, influenced without doubt by the most laudable and humane motives, has considered it necessary to watch with the greatest care and jealousy all the proceedings of the Colonial Legislatures, and frequently to insist on the adoption of legislative measures to effect what would be attained much more easily by the action of the Executive.

9. It is, I think, to be lamented that that Government should not repose a larger amount of confidence in the intentions of the representatives of the Crown in the several colonies, all of whom, I feel assured, fully enter into and approve of the motives of humanity by which it is manifestly influenced.

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10. With regard to the specific objections made by the Government of India to emigration to Saint Lucia, I feel that the subject has been already so ably treated by the Land and Immigration Commissioners, that it is only necessary for me to express generally my entire concurrence in their views.

11. On one particular point, however, on which the Commissioners are disposed to concur with the Government of India, I feel called on to offer a few remarks. I refer to the salary of the Immigration Agent. You are already, I believe, fully aware that the multiplication of small offices has been a great evil in the West Indies.

12. I have been endeavouring, with your entire concurrence, to consolidate, wherever it has been found possible, offices, the aggregate duties of which could be satisfactorily performed by one individual.

13. The Government of India and the Immigration Commissioners object to a salary of 50*l.* per annum for an Immigration Agent. That salary is contrasted with what is allowed in British Guiana, and it is argued, with apparent plausibility, that for 50*l.* per annum the services of a superior man cannot be commanded.

14. Now, it has never been imagined that for 50*l.* per annum the entire services of a competent man could be obtained. But it is believed that in such small colonies as Grenada and St. Lucia, whose united populations do not exceed 50,000, and whose united revenues are less than 30,000*l.*, a competent person, already employed in the public service, may find time to discharge the required duties towards a comparatively small number of immigrants.

15. The practical question appears to me to be this;—can the Governments of St. Lucia and Grenada, with the small salary of 50*l.*, obtain the services of the most competent men? In other words, would better men be appointed if an additional salary, such as would satisfy the Government of India and the Immigration Commissioners, were granted?

16. To arrive at a satisfactory solution of these questions, the nature of the appointments actually made in Saint Lucia and Grenada to the office of Immigration Agent should be considered.

17. In Saint Lucia, Mr. James Vickery Drysdale, the Colonial Secretary, was appointed Immigration Agent. With regard to this gentleman, you are aware that at the time of his appointment he was in the enjoyment of a salary sufficient to command his entire services to the Government, that he was afterwards selected to administer the Government of Saint Lucia, and has very recently received the Queen's warrant constituting him Lieut.-Governor of Tobago.

18. I have no hesitation in affirming that Mr. Drysdale was as likely to discharge the duties of Immigration Agent satisfactorily as any person who could have been appointed. No additional salary would have induced him to devote more time to the duties of the office, and yet had his salary been 200*l.* or 300*l.* instead of 50*l.*, in all probability there would have been no complaint on the part of the Indian Government.

19. The real cause for apprehension obviously is that Mr. Drysdale, occupied with other duties, would have neglected those of Immigration Agent, but in his case I am inclined to think that a wise discretion was exercised in the appointment. The choice lay between him and some other official, and considering that the services of the stipendiary magistrates, four in number, were already at the disposal of the Government, I am of opinion that it was sound policy to throw upon Mr. Drysdale the responsibility attaching to him as Immigration Agent, with a small salary, and thus ensuring his watchfulness over the interests of the immigrants.

20. Since Mr. Drysdale's appointment, however, new political arrangements have been made in Saint Lucia, and I concur with him in thinking that one of the stipendiary magistrates should be appointed, with the salary of 50*l.* in addition to his other salary of 300*l.* I leave for after consideration the question as to which of the stipendiary magistrates it would be expedient to select for the service.

21. I may observe, that in Grenada the Immigration Agent is the acting stipendiary magistrate, the full salary and allowance for which office is 450*l.* per annum. I am not aware that a more competent person could be obtained. I shall, however, be probably called on to communicate to you my views regarding Grenada on another occasion.

22. Although I am much gratified at finding that the Indian Government has sanctioned emigration to Grenada, I cannot but remark that there are reasons why less apprehension should be entertained by them regarding Saint Lucia than Grenada.

23. Saint Lucia is a Crown colony, and of course the executive influence is much stronger there than in Grenada. In Saint Lucia there are four stipendiary magistrates, while in Grenada there is only one.

24. I have only to state, in conclusion, that so strong is the feeling in favour of immigration in all the colonies, that any reasonable demands of the Indian Government will be promptly acceded to. The colonies rely on the Secretary of State and the Land and Emigration Commissioners to protect them from what is unreasonable, and will promptly carry out, either by an Act of the Legislature or by an instruction, any order conveyed to them by you.

25. I trust that with these explanations, and the assurance of Mr. Drysdale that the Legislature of Saint Lucia will promptly pass an ordinance to carry out your views, the Indian Government will withdraw its prohibition of emigration to Saint Lucia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

Encl. 1 in No. 6.

(No. 38.)

SIR, Saint Lucia, April 20, 1857.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's Despatch transmitting to me the copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, together with several enclosures on the subject of Coolie immigration.

2. The intelligence conveyed in the Secretary of State's Despatch of the prohibition of Coolie immigration from India to Saint Lucia is indeed very discouraging, after the planters had, by the confirmation of the Coolie Immigration Ordinance, been led to hope that their expectations of an early arrival of immigrants would have been realized.

3. The colonists must feel grateful to the Secretary of State for his exertions in their behalf, and to the Land and Immigration Commissioners for their able vindication of the Legislature of Saint Lucia from the charge of insincerity in their endeavours to make their laws acceptable to the Home Government.

4. The draft ordinance to amend the Immigration Ordinance of 1854, which has been forwarded by the Secretary of State, appears to be calculated to meet the most if not all the objections raised to the existing law, and I make no doubt will be readily passed by the Legislative Council, in accordance with the suggestions of Mr. Labouchere.

5. I beg to annex a copy of the Government Notice issued in 1849, setting forth the terms and conditions under which liberated African immigrants were to be allotted, and I also append a copy of a notice to the like effect in regard to Coolie immigrants, which was published in September 1855, when it was expected that an early supply of immigrants would be received. Sub-Enclosure 1. Sub-Enclosure 2. Sub-Enclosure 3.

6. The stipendiary magistrates have an exclusive jurisdiction in the case of contracts of service, and all immigrants are placed under their immediate supervision; it is their duty to visit the immigrants on the estates, and to see that the provisions of the immigration laws and the terms of their contracts of service are duly observed, and they are required to make stated periodical reports to the Government on the treatment and condition of the immigrants.

7. Those duties were well and faithfully performed by the stipendiary magistrates on the reception of the African labourers in 1849 and 1850, and have only now ceased to be strictly observed since the Africans have become amalgamated with the general population, and are dispersed over the island, many of them having become proprietors of small freeholds.

8. It is contemplated that the active exercise of the same surveillance should be again resumed by the stipendiary magistrates on the arrival of Coolie immigrants, and I have the honour to submit for your Excellency's correction the draft of a circular letter of instructions to the magistrates, which, with your Excellency's approval, I propose to issue in anticipation of the arrival of the Coolie immigrants.

9. I do not find that any circular instructions were given to the stipendiary magistrates in regard to the liberated Africans introduced into the island, but I am aware that all the duties defined in the draft circular now forwarded were then performed by the district magistrates.

10. As regards the office of immigration agent, there can be no doubt that the salary of 50*l.* would be altogether an inadequate remuneration were the immigration to be carried on on a large scale, or were the appointment not held in conjunction with some other office;

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and I am of opinion that the duties of immigration agent in this island might be advantageously performed by the stipendiary magistrate stationed at Castries in the first district.

11. It is provided by section first of Mr. Labouchere's draft ordinance that "the term "immigration agent shall include any stipendiary magistrate or other person appointed by "the Lieut.-Governor to exercise any of the functions of the immigration agent;" and as the stipendiary magistrates generally are to exercise a strict surveillance over the interests of the immigrants, I conceive that the additional salary of 50*l.* to the stipendiary magistrate resident at the seat of Government might be considered sufficient remuneration for the duties he would have to perform as immigration agent in visiting the vessels, receiving, registering, and assigning the immigrants on their arrival.

12. The stipendiary magistrate now stationed at Castries, Mr. J. A. Jennings, is well fitted for the discharge of these duties, having had considerable experience on several occasions when his services were required to aid in the assignment and distribution of the African immigrants.

13. Before closing this Despatch, I think it right to advert to the Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 34, of the 24th November 1856, forwarded under cover of your Excellency's Despatch, No. 76, of the 24th December 1856, wherein, referring to the confirmation of the Ordinance, No. 6 of 1856, entitled "An Ordinance to suspend for a limited Time the "Duties imposed on Sugar, Rum, and Molasses, under the Royal Order in Council of the "18th October 1854," Mr. Labouchere observes, that "no money can be raised on account "of the guaranteed loan of 15,000*l.* during the period of the suspension of the duties "imposed on the exportation of sugar, rum, and molasses."

14. This Ordinance No. 6 was passed for one year only, and expires on the 31st December next, when the collection of the export duties will be resumed; but it may be worthy of consideration whether it might not be expedient to bring the Royal Order in Council into force again at an earlier period than the end of the year, so that the objection as to the suspension of the collection of the duties might be removed, in order to enable the Home Government to raise the loan, and thus secure the season of 1857–8 for receiving immigrants from India.

15. I may add that at the close of last year there was a sum of 1,586*l.* sterling in the hands of the treasurer to the credit of the immigration fund, being the amount of export duties collected during the years 1855–6.

16. The revenue derived from these export duties is appropriated under the law to the payment of interest and the formation of a sinking fund for the repayment of the Imperial loan of 15,000*l.* when raised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. V. DRYSDALE,
Administering the Government.

His Excellency
The Governor-in-Chief, Barbadoes.

Sub-Encl. 1 to Encl. in No. 6.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

Government Office, Castries, August 13, 1849.

OFFICIAL information having been received by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor that a vessel may be very shortly expected to arrive here from Sierra Leone with a number of liberated Africans, parties who are desirous of securing their services as agricultural labourers, upon the conditions hereafter specified, will please to send in immediately their applications to the stipendiary magistrate of the district in which they propose to employ the labourers, it being understood that in no case will a smaller number than ten be assigned to any property; and in the distribution of the immigrants a due regard will be had to the claims of proprietors whose estates did not participate in the allotment of the Africans per ship "Una." The applications must specify,—

1st. The district.
2nd. The name of the property.
3rd. The name of the proprietor, or of his attorney, if the proprietor be absent from the island.
4th. The number of labourers required.
5th. Whether suitable accommodation for the number of labourers applied for already exists on the property or will require to be prepared.

The following are the terms upon which it is proposed to allot the immigrants under written contracts of service:—

1. Contracts will be limited to one year's duration, as enacted by the Royal Order in Council of the 7th day of September 1838.

2. Dry, wholesome, and comfortable lodging, to be previously inspected and reported upon by the stipendiary magistrate, and approved of by the Lieutenant-Governor, must be provided for the immigrants.

3. To each male and female emigrant must be allotted not less than half an acre of land suitable to the production of the ground provisions of the island.

4. Medical attendance, by a duly qualified practitioner, and medicines, to be supplied to each immigrant of all ages at the cost of the employer.

5. The following rations and wages to be assigned to the immigrants during the first six months of their contract:—

To each immigrant above 14 years of age, a weekly ration of 3 lbs. salt fish, or 2 lbs. of beef or pork, or a proportion each of beef and pork equal to 2 lbs. of meat in all.

7 lbs. of bread; or

$2\frac{1}{2}$ pots = 5 quarts of farine manioc; or 3 pots = 6 quarts of corn meal; or

2 pots = 4 quarts of rice, or 21 lbs. of yams, or 28 lbs. sweet potatoes, or 21 lbs. eddoes, or 25 lbs. plantains—or equivalent proportions, if it is found convenient to comprise more than one of the above enumerated grain and vegetables in the weekly ration.

2*d.* a day wages for each day on which the immigrant works, the employer being bound to find work for the number of days per week specified in the contract.

During the second six months, half the above ration only to be issued, and the wages to be increased to 5*d.* a day.

Children under 14 to receive half rations, but those between 10 and 14 to receive, in addition, 2*d.* per diem wages during the second six months.

The immigrants will be bound to labour for nine hours on six days in the week, or five days only, if so specified in the contract, between sunrise and sunset, at least one break of an hour being allowed for rest.

The Lieutenant-Governor to have a right at any time to make full inquiry into the state and condition of the immigrants through any stipendiary magistrate appointed by him for that purpose.

Printed contracts comprising the above conditions will be supplied by Government. The contracts will be subject to a stamp duty of 6*s.* in respect of each immigrant engaged, to be paid by the employer before the immigrants leave ship or depôt.

By command,

(Signed) J. V. DRYSDALE,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

Sub-Encl. 2 to Encl. in No. 6.

Government Office, September 24, 1855.

PARTIES desirous of securing the services of Coolie immigrants upon the conditions set forth in the Ordinance, No. 3, of the 22nd April 1854, will be pleased to send in their applications to the stipendiary magistrate of the district in which they propose to employ the immigrants.

The applications must specify:—

1st. The district.
2nd. The name of the estate.
3rd. The name of the proprietor or attorney.
4th. The number of immigrants required.
5th. Whether suitable accommodation for the number of immigrants required has been provided, or will be prepared.

The following are the terms upon which the immigrants are to be assigned under written contracts of service:—

1. Contracts of service for a period not exceeding three years.

2. For every such Coolie immigrant whose services may be so assigned, there shall be paid at the time of the execution of such assignment the sum of twenty shillings for the first year for which such services shall be assigned, and the annual sum of twenty-five shillings for every subsequent year of such services, to be paid yearly in advance, by the person in possession of the estate in respect of which such services shall have been so assigned.

3. Dry, wholesome, and comfortable lodging, to be previously inspected and reported upon by the stipendiary magistrate, and approved of by the Lieutenant-Governor, must be provided for the immigrants.

4. To each immigrant must be allotted not less than half an acre of land, suitable to the production of the ground provisions of the island.

5. Medical attendance by a duly qualified practitioner and medicines to be supplied to each immigrant of all ages by the employer of such immigrants.

6. The employer to pay to each and every male or female immigrant assigned to him wages at and after the same daily rate as is paid to the labourers not under indenture or agreement working on the same estate, subject to deductions at the rate of twelve shillings per annum for medical attendance, and at the rate of twelve shillings per annum for lodging and provision grounds.

7. The immigrant will be bound to labour for nine hours on six days in the week, or five days only if so specified in the contract, between sunrise and sunset, with an intermission of at least of one hour for rest.

8. The Lieutenant-Governor to have a right at any time to make full inquiry into the state and condition of the immigrants through any stipendiary magistrate or other officer appointed by him for that purpose.

By command,

(Signed) J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

ST. LUCIA.

Sub-Encl. 3 to Encl. in No. 6.

Sub-Enclosure 3.

(Circular.)

SIR, St. Lucia, Government Office, Castries.

IN the event of the arrival of Coolie immigrants, your attention will necessarily be directed to the provisions of the Ordinance, No. 3, of the 22nd April 1854, entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the Introduction of Coolies into this Colony at the public Expense, and for the Regulation and Government of such Immigrants."

2. In order that you may be prepared for such an event, it is desirable that your duties in regard to the immigrants and their employers should be distinctly defined and understood, and I have therefore deemed it advisable to lay down a few rules for your guidance in these respects:—

1st. In the first place it will be your duty to ascertain by personal inspection whether suitable accommodation for the number of immigrants required has been provided on the estates to which it is proposed to allot them.

2nd. On the assignment of any Coolie immigrants to an estate in the district under your charge, you will make it your especial duty to see that they are provided with regular medical attendance and proper care during sickness, that they have provision grounds allotted to them, and that their wages are punctually paid at least once every fortnight, and that employment is given to them continually, so as to enable them to earn a fair amount of wages.

3rd. Irrespective of the periodical returns which, under the law, the employers of Coolie immigrants are required to make to Government, it will be your duty to furnish a detailed report at the end of every quarter, on the state and condition of all such immigrants as may be located on estates in your district; and you are further required to report, for the information of the Executive Government, the occurrence of any extraordinary or unusual event touching the welfare of the immigrants.

4th. You will cause the contracts of service entered into to be faithfully observed on both sides, taking due care that at all times the Coolie immigrant shall receive for his labour the same rate of wages as is paid to the unindentured labourers on the same estate, subject always to the deductions allowed by law.

5th. In all other respects you will be guided by the provisions of the Immigration Ordinances.

I have, &c.

To the Stipendiary Magistrates.

ST. KITTS.

ST. KITTS.

Despatches from the Secretary of State.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY to Governor MACKINTOSH.

(No. 48.)

SIR, Downing Street, January 31, 1855.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information and guidance, and in order that they may be communicated to the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Kitts, copies of a correspondence with Mr. R. Davis with reference to the introduction of emigrants into that island, and to the making of contracts out of the colony in the case of emigrants from Madeira, the Azores, Europe, the United States, and the British possessions in North America.

Enclosure 1. 15th Jan. 1855. Enclosure 2. 23rd Jan. 1855. Enclosure 3. 31st Jan. 1855.

I also enclose a draft * which was prepared by desire of my predecessor, embodying in the form and language of legal enactments the regulations sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government for the proper management of immigration.

* Vide page 13.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

Governor Mackintosh, &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 1.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

SIR, 9, St. Helen's Place, January 15, 1855.

FROM the great mortality amongst the labouring classes in St. Kitts, occasioned by the recent outbreak of cholera in that island, it has become manifest that the only method by which the agricultural operations can in future be carried on is by a large and immediate supply of immigrants from Madeira.

At a meeting of several gentlemen connected with St. Kitts, it was deemed necessary, as a preliminary measure, to ascertain whether Her Majesty's Government was prepared to recognize the legality of contracts made out of the colony for service in the island, during a period not exceeding three years, provided the Legislature should pass an Act to that effect.

Should Her Majesty's Government be prepared to sanction such a measure, it is proposed to obtain the passing of a bill by the Council and House of Assembly of St. Kitts, authorizing the impost of an additional tax on the export of sugar, rum, and molasses, such tax to be applied solely to immigration purposes.

It is also proposed that such Act shall declare that all contracts for agricultural purposes or for the engagement of mechanics, wheresoever made in Europe or America, properly executed for services to be performed in the island of St. Kitts for a period not exceeding three years, shall be valid and binding; and that all breaches thereof shall be punished summarily, in like manner as breaches under the present Contract Act of the island.

On behalf of the meeting I have to request that you will inform me whether Her Majesty's Government is prepared to sanction an Act to the above effect, or should any modification be required, that you will obligingly note the same for the guidance of the gentlemen entrusted with the carrying out of the bill.

Should Her Majesty's Government see no objection to the measure (as it is important to the interests of the colony that no time shall be lost in carrying out the same), I am desired to beg that instructions may be forwarded to the Governor-in-Chief to sanction such a bill without the delay of first sending it to this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD DAVIS,
Chairman.

Frederick Peel, Esq., M.P., Colonial Office.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1. ST. KITTS.

SIR, Downing Street, January 23, 1855. Encl. 2 in No. 1.

I AM directed by Sir George Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant respecting the introduction into St. Kitts of emigrants from Madeira.

Sir George Grey has directed certain inquiries to be made on the subject, and will communicate to you his decision with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.

Richard Davis, Esq. (Signed) F. PEEL.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1. Encl. 3 in No. 1.

SIR, Downing Street, January 31, 1855.

WITH reference to my letter of the 23rd instant, I am now directed by Sir George Grey to convey to you his answers to the two inquiries submitted in your letter of the 15th, namely, 1st, whether Her Majesty's Government were prepared to sanction an Act, if passed by the Legislature for St. Kitts, for authorizing the impost of an additional tax on the export of sugar, rum, and molasses, such tax to be applied solely to immigration purposes? and 2nd, whether Her Majesty's Government were prepared to sanction contracts not exceeding three years, when made in Europe or America?

With respect to the export duty proposed, I am to inform you that Sir George Grey will not object to the imposition of such a tax for the purposes of immigration. But if the mode of importing on bounty is adopted, it will be necessary that means should be taken for guarding against the introduction of a larger number of immigrants than the funds available would pay for.

Sir George Grey has no objection to rendering legal contracts for three years, made out of the colony, with persons capable of understanding their nature,—such contracts having been authorized in the cases of other colonies. Sir George Grey, however, is of opinion that the sources of such immigration should not be extended to the whole of "America" (including several barbarous and semi-barbarous populations) and "Europe," but be confined to "Madeira, the Azores, Europe, the United States, and the British Possessions in North America." But in authorizing general provisions to this effect Sir George Grey does not preclude himself from objecting to any details of such an Act which may appear improper.

I am further to state that the proposed immigration, especially from Madeira, must not take place at the public expense, except under conditions which will secure that the contract is fair and bonâ fide, for which purpose it will probably be sufficient to provide that the contract should not be valid until countersigned by the Immigration Agent in the colony, such agent being entitled to refuse his counter-signature in case it appeared to him that any fraud had been practised, or that the contracts were evidently unreasonable.

You are no doubt aware that Her Majesty's Government require, as a condition of all immigration conducted from public funds, that due provision should be made for the housing and medical attendance or hospital accommodation of the immigrants. I have transmitted copies of this correspondence to the Governor of the Leeward Islands for his information.

I have, &c.

Richard Davis, Esq. (Signed) H. MERIVALE.

No. 2. No. 2.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir W. MOLESWORTH to Governor MACKINTOSH.

(No. 5.)

SIR, Downing Street, August 16, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 39,* of the 11th May last, enclosing an Act passed by the Legislature of St. Christopher, for the encouragement of the immigration of agricultural labourers, accompanied by the copy of a correspondence respecting it with the Lieutenant-Governor. * Page 414.

I think that the Lieutenant-Governor was right, under the circumstances of the case, in not submitting the model Act sent to him by my predecessor for the consideration of the Legislature after they had passed the present Act; although I am not aware that he was not competent to do so from the want of an enabling clause, as I apprehend that the rule on that point which prevails in this country with regard to Acts of Parliament does not apply to the colonies, except where it has been specially adopted.

The Act has been left to its operation by the enclosed order made by Her Majesty in Council on the 13th instant.

ST. KITTS.

In framing the rules, which a committee is authorized to establish, for the regulation of the immigration, it would be desirable to make the strict observance of the Imperial Passengers' Act an essential condition to the payment of bounty upon immigrants from any British possessions. But in the case of Madeira no bounty should be payable where the number introduced in any ship should exceed the proportion (already fixed in regard to ships proceeding to British Guiana) of one adult to every ton register. Also, in calculating the sums claimable for bounty, the age of an adult should be determined by the rule laid down in the Amended Passengers' Act, which has just passed through Parliament.

The enclosed order also leaves to its operation the Act No. 423, relating to the appointment of rural constables, which accompanied your Despatch, No. 46, of the 8th June last.

I have, &c.

Governor Mackintosh, &c. &c. (Signed) W. MOLESWORTH.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Earl of CLARENDON to Governor MACKINTOSH.

SIR, Downing Street, August 6, 1856.

26th June 1856. Vide page 94.

I TRANSMIT for your information the copy of a Despatch which has been addressed to the Earl of Clarendon by Her Majesty's Consul at the Cape de Verde islands, stating that 328 emigrants have left those islands for Demerara, and that others will probably follow.

I have, &c.

Governor Mackintosh, &c. &c. (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor MACKINTOSH.

SIR, Downing Street, January 31, 1857.

29th Jan. 1857. Vide page 248.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Foreign Department, with copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at St. Vincent, stating that there was no possibility of any emigration from the Cape de Verde islands at present.

I have, &c.

Governor Mackintosh, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to Governor HAMILTON.

(No. 76.)

SIR, Downing Street, February 13, 1857.

* Vide Ap. No. 31, page 503.

No. 56, 26th Nov. 1856, page 415.

I HAVE received and have had under my consideration an Act* passed by the Legislature of St. Kitts in the month of October last, and transmitted to me in your Despatch noted in the margin.

I have reported to Her Majesty in Council my opinion that the said Act should be left to its operation; and I have the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of Her Majesty in Council, dated the 2nd February, approving that report.

Enclosure.

I have, &c.

Governor Hamilton, &c. &c. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

Enclosure in No. 5.

At the Court at Windsor, the 2nd day of February 1857.

Present,

The Queen's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Officer administering the Government of Her Majesty's Island of St. Christopher, with the Council and Assembly of the said island, did in the month of October 1856 pass an Act which has been transmitted, entitled as follows, viz., No. 437, "An Act further to encourage the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers."

And whereas the said Act has been laid before Her Majesty in Council, together with a letter from the Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to the Lord President of the Council, recommending that the said Act should be left to its operation: Her Majesty was thereupon this day pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to approve the said report. Whereof the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander-in-Chief for the time being of Her Majesty's island of St. Christopher, and all other persons whom it may concern, are to take notice, and govern themselves accordingly.

(Signed) C. C. GREVILLE.

Despatches from Governor Mackintosh and Governor Hamilton.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor MACKINTOSH to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 39.) Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 11, 1855.

(Received June 8, 1855.)

(Answered, No. 5, August 16, 1855, page 411.)

MY LORD,

Appendix, No. 29. Page 501.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith enclosed in duplicate, an authenticated transcript, together with the law officers' summary, of an Act which has been passed by the Legislature of St. Kitt's, entitled "An Act to encourage the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers; for such "Purpose to grant an Aid to Her Majesty by a Tax upon Exports, and to "repeal certain Clauses of an Act regulating the relative Rights and Duties "of Masters and Servants."

Enclosure. No. 5. 29 March 1855.

And also a copy of a Despatch explanatory of the facts connected with its enactment which I have received from Lieutenant-Governor Robinson.

The provisions of the enactment now submitted for your Lordship's consideration were discussed and all but finally adopted in the Council and Assembly of St. Kitt's before the model Ordinance which was forwarded to me in Sir George Grey's Despatch, St. Kitts, No. 48,* of the 31st of January, reached the latter island.

* Page 410.

Of the correspondence, however, between Mr. Richard Davis and your Lordship's Department, copies of which were also enclosed in the same Despatch, it will be seen that the parties who were on the spot promoting the present measure had already obtained possession.

These parties, sensible as they are of the consideration manifested in furnishing them with a copy of the above-mentioned Ordinance, were, nevertheless, of opinion that, superior as this law doubtless is to the enclosed Act in method and completeness, their own modest operations can be carried on with sufficient force by means of machinery of the simpler kind which the latter embodies. I understand that the immediate intentions of the planting interests of St Kitt's are limited to the introduction from the Cape Verde islands of some two or three hundred labourers.

I am concerned to observe in clause 7 that no power is in express terms reserved to the Crown of disallowing the regulations of the Lieutenant-Governor and Joint Committee. The omission in question was pointed out by me to the Lieutenant-Governor at the time of conveying to him my conditional sanction for the accordance of his assent to the bill, but I fear, from the result I have just noticed, with insufficient clearness. I cannot, however, imagine that practically any inconvenience may be apprehended as the result of such omission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 1.

Enclosure in No. 1.

(No. 5.)

SIR, Saint Christopher's, March 29, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch, No. 7, of the 24th instant, transmitting a copy of a correspondence which has passed between Mr. Richard Davis, on behalf of certain parties interested in the welfare of St. Kitts, and the Colonial Department, on the means of supplying, under the present impaired condition of the industrial resources of this island, immigrant labour; and also a draft bill embodying the views on this subject which, if adopted by the Legislature, Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to sanction.

ST. KITTS.

It was my intention, in compliance with your Excellency's instructions, to have submitted these documents to the Council and Assembly at their meeting this day, with the view of affording them thereby an opportunity of revising, in connection with these additional references, their own recent measure for the encouragement of immigration, and of enabling them to frame from the respective provisions of the two bills an uniform and complete body of law.

I am, however, advised by the Attorney-General that the Council and Assembly cannot constitutionally approach either the revision of the measure lately passed by them for the encouragement of immigration, or the consideration of a new measure having the same object in view, during the present session, the usual clause allowing the "alteration or amendment of an Act during the present session" having been omitted in the framing of the bill, it being considered unnecessary, in consequence of the expiration of the present House of Assembly, by efflux of time, within the course of a few days.

As therefore a period of nearly two months must elapse before the Legislative Bodies can reconsider the question in a new session, which will commence probably about the 15th of May next, and as every day's delay at present reduces the fund for immigration purposes which it is intended to collect upon exports under the Act already passed by the Council and Assembly, such a delay would almost have the effect of postponing the subject for another year, as a very considerable proportion of the produce of the island will be shipped during the next two months.

Under these circumstances I am induced to hope that your Excellency will authorize me to accord my assent to the Immigration Act, transmitted in my Despatch No. 4, of the 17th instant, and I do not conceive that there will be any objection on the part of the Legislative Bodies to revise the measure, should it be found desirable to do so, early in the next Session, at which time they will no doubt take advantage of all the information and suggestions which can be derived from a careful consideration of the very comprehensive Ordinance transmitted with your Excellency's Despatch No. 7.

It must, however, be borne in mind, that the Immigration Act lately passed by the Council and Assembly of this island is not in itself a complete measure, but must be considered in conjunction with the "Masters' and Servants' Act," which is incorporated with it.

I am further advised by the law officer, that when preparing the measure which now awaits your Excellency's concurrence, he had before him a copy of Mr. Merivale's letter of the 31st January 1855, addressed to Mr. Davis, and that every requirement laid down in that document has been fully complied with and duly provided for. I am also led to believe that the omission in the 7th clause of the reservation, in express terms, to the Crown of the right of ultimately disallowing the Regulations of the Joint Committee, must have been an oversight on the part of the clerk of the Assembly in copying the transcript transmitted in my Despatch No. 4; such a reservation is expressly provided for in the seventh clause of the original Act, which I have now before me. It stands as follows in the original:—

7. "And be it enacted, that any rules or rule made by the said Committee from time to time, when sanctioned by the Board of Council and House of Assembly, and approved by the Governor, shall have the force of law, and be received and construed with and as part of this Act."

As I could not under the ordinary course of postal communication receive an answer to his Despatch before the 14th proximo, and as two large vessels are expected to leave this island for England with produce about the 8th or 10th of next month, I transmit this Despatch by a vessel hired for the purpose, which will await your Excellency's commands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON,
Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency
The Governor-in-Chief, Antigua.

No. 2.

No. 2.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 56.) Leeward Islands, Antigua, November 26, 1856.

(Received December 18, 1856.)

(Answered, No. 76, February 13, 1857, page 412.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in duplicate, an authenticated printed copy, together with the law officers' summary, of an Act which has passed the Legislature of St. Kitts, entitled "An Act further to encourage the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers."

Vide Appendix, No. 31, page 503.

2. I am not aware of any objection to the sanction of the Crown being accorded to this enactment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) K. B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. KITTS.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 25.) Leeward Islands, Antigua, February 6, 1857.

SIR, (Received March 4, 1857.)

Enclosure. I HAVE the honour to forward a return of the immigration agent of St. Kitt's for the past year which I have received from the Lieutenant-Governor of that island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) K. B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 3.

C.

RETURN of the Immigration on Bounty and otherwise into St. Kitt's, during the Year ending 31st December 1856.

Name of Ship.	Registered Tonnage.	Name of Surgeon.	Port of Departure.	Port of Arrival.	Date of Sailing.	Date of Arrival.	No. of Days on Voyage.	Emigrants embarked.					Births on Voyage.		Deaths on Voyage.				Emigrants landed.					State in each Case, whether on Bounty or unassisted.	If on Bounty, state in each Case rate in Sterling.	State in each Case the Total Amount in Sterling of Bounties paid
								Adults.		Children under 14.		Total.	Males.	Females.	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Total.			
								M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Nautilus	420	A. Joaquin	Madeira	St. Kitt's	Mar. 4, 1856.	Apr. 4, 1856.	32	27	31	29	21	108	-	-	-	-	1	1	27	31	28	20	106	On bounty.	7l. for each adult; 3l. 10s. for each child.	£ s. d. 574 0 0
TOTALS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	31	29	21	108	-	-	-	-	1	1	27	31	28	20	106	—	—	574 0 0

NOTE.—In addition to the bounty of 574*l.* paid to the ship, there were expenses incurred by the agent employed in Madeira, amounting to 33*l.* 4*s.* The proportion of the above borne by the planters under Act No. 717 amounted to 238*l.* The balance of immigration fund in hand on 31st December 1856 amounted to 2,679*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*; and as nearly one half of the expense of importation is borne by the planters, the balance represents a fund available for the purposes of immigration amounting to about 5,000*l.*

(Signed) W. C. L. ROBINSON, Superintendent of Immigrants.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

British Guiana.

APPENDIX No. 1.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Court of Policy.—No. 7, 1854.

An Ordinance for the Amendment and Consolidation of the Laws for the Encouragement of Immigration and for the general Regulation of Immigrants.

(P. E. WODEHOUSE.)

ORDINANCE ENACTED by his Excellency PHILIP EDMUND WODEHOUSE, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c., by and with the Advice and Consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the said Colony.

To all to whom these Presents do, may, or shall come, greeting; be it known:—

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the ordinances now in force for the encouragement of immigration into British Guiana, and for the general regulation of immigrants introduced and to be introduced into the said colony, and for that purpose to consolidate the same into one ordinance: Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, as follows:—

Repeal of former Ordinances.

1. Ordinance, No. 22, of the year 1850, intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the Subsistence, moral and Religious Instruction, and Well-being of liberated Africans sent to British Guiana;" Ordinance, No. 20, of the year 1851, intituled "An Ordinance to provide general Regulations for Immigrants introduced and to be introduced into the Colony of British Guiana;" Ordinance, No. 21, of the year 1851, intituled "An Ordinance further to regulate and encourage the Immigration of Coolies;" Ordinance, No. 22, of the year 1851, intituled "An Ordinance for the Encouragement of the Introduction into the Colony of Labourers in general;" Ordinance, No. 13, of the year 1853, intituled "An Ordinance to amend Ordinance, No. 20, of the year 1851, intituled "An Ordinance to provide general Regulations for Immigrants introduced and to be introduced into the Colony of British Guiana;" Ordinance, No. 16, of 1853, intituled "An Ordinance to limit the Term of renewed Contracts of Service entered into by certain Indian Immigrants;" and Ordinance, No. 2, of the year 1853, intituled "An Ordinance for regulating the Rights, Duties, and Relations of Employers and Servants in the Colony of British Guiana," so far as the same relates to immigrants, shall be and the same are hereby repealed, save and except as to existing contracts and liabilities for payment of contract duty, and all fines and penalties incurred, and the right of proceeding for and recovering the same, and except also in so far as the same may repeal any previous ordinance.

Payment of agents abroad.

2. Whereas certain persons have been appointed agents by Her Majesty's Government to superintend the emigration of labourers from certain places to Her Majesty's Colonies in the West Indies and to British Guiana, the Governor may from time to time pay a part of the salary or remuneration granted by Her Majesty to each of such agents as are or may be hereafter so appointed, in proportion to the number of emigrants which may be sent to this colony.

Payment of expenses incurred abroad.

3. The Governor may pay the amount of every moderate and necessary expense incurred at any port or place where any such agent is appointed for the collection of emigrants, in conveying emigrants to the port of embarkation; in maintaining them there for a period not exceeding fifteen days, and in providing them with such supply of clothing as may be requisite for their voyage to this colony; upon the receipt from such agent of an account thereof, duly vouched, showing the particulars of such expenditure, countersigned by the Governor of such place, or by such officer as he may appoint, if the same be a British possession, or by Her Majesty's consul at any foreign port or place, such Governor, officer, or consul, as the case may be, certifying thereby, so far as he knows, that such expenditure has been solely incurred for the purposes aforesaid, or for any of such purposes, and is just and reasonable; and may likewise pay the amount of any expenditure incurred by Her Majesty's Government or by Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty's Government at the request of the Governor and Court of Policy, in the hiring, employing, and licensing of any vessel for bringing or sending immigrants into

this colony from the East Indies or from China; in providing for the maintenance and clothing of such immigrants during their passage or otherwise; in employing on board any such vesssel a surgeon, and such other just expenditure as shall be caused by and be necessarily incidental to such immigration to this colony; and all just expenditure caused by and necessarily incidental to sending back any immigrants from the East Indies at the expiration of their stipulated term of residence to the place from whence they shall have been brought or sent into this colony.

Governor to name places for emigration on bounty, and fix rate, and number of weeks allowed for passage.

4. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy, may from time to time, by proclamation, name the ports or places from which emigration on bounty is permitted to this colony, and may fix such rate of bounty as to him shall seem just, for indemnifying the person at whose charge any immigrant may be introduced into this colony for the expense of his maintenance and passage from the port of embarkation to this colony, and shall in his proclamation to be issued for that purpose declare the number of weeks deemed necessary for the voyage of any ship or vessel from such respective ports or places to this colony: Provided always, that no rate of bounty shall be fixed, and that no bounty shall be allowed, for the importation of any immigrant who may be incompetent or unwilling to engage in agricultural labour, or for any immigrant above the age of forty years, unless, in either case, such immigrant shall be one of a family of immigrants arriving in the same vessel; and provided further, that no bounty or passage money shall be paid for any greater number of immigrants imported by any one vessel from the Island of Madeira, from any of the Islands of the Azores, Cape de Verde Islands, Canary Islands, and other places of similar distance, than at the rate of one immigrant for each ton of the measurement of such vessel.

Limitation of bounty.

Rates payable to private importer.

5. Any person who, having first obtained a licence to that effect from the Governor, which licence the Governor shall grant or refuse at his discretion, shall introduce at his own expense immigrants under written contract with him for service upon his own plantation, shall be entitled to receive from the immigration funds at and after the rates following:—

For each Chinese immigrant, a sum not exceeding	-	- £60
For each Indian immigrant „ „	-	- 30

or such other sum as may from time to time be duly declared by resolution of the Governor and Court of Policy: Provided that the party applying for such licence as aforesaid shall give to the Governor such security as he may require for the carrying out the object of such licence, and that the number of such immigrants paid for shall not exceed the number stated in the licence to be granted to such person as aforesaid.

Appointment of Immigration Agent-General.

6. The Governor may nominate and appoint some fit and proper person, resident in this colony, to be Immigration Agent-General, and may from time to time remove any person so nominated and appointed, and nominate and appoint any other fit and proper person in his place; and any person so nominated and appointed shall, during his tenure of office, be paid annually such salary, not exceeding the sum of three thousand three hundred and sixty dollars, as the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy, shall determine.

Appointment of Sub-Immigration Agents.

7. The Governor may nominate and appoint from time to time sub-immigration agents, residing within the colony, who shall be under the direction and control of the said Immigration Agent-General, and may remove any person so nominated and appointed, and nominate and appoint any other fit and proper person in his place; and may, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy, allow to the sub-immigration agent acting in Georgetown for the Counties of Demerara and Essequebo remuneration, not exceeding the sum of nine hundred and sixty dollars per annum; and to the sub-immigration agent acting in New Amsterdam remuneration, not exceeding the sum of four hundred and eighty dollars per annum.

Proceedings on arrival of vessel with immigrants.

8. Upon the arrival in the colony of any vessel having immigrants on board, the Immigration Agent-General, accompanied by the Health Officer of the port, shall forthwith proceed on board of such vessel, and with the assistance of such officer, shall ascertain by personal inspection of the vessel and immigrants whether the provisions of the Imperial Passengers' Act, for the time being, as far as they may be applicable, have been complied with or not; and such Immigration Agent-General, with such assistance as aforesaid, shall personally muster such immigrants and compare the number and names of such immigrants with the duplicate list, if any, furnished to the master by the agent at the port of embarkation, which he shall require such master to produce and deliver to him, and shall certify upon such duplicate list the name of the vessel, the total number of immigrants then living and on board of such vessel, together with the state or condition of each immigrant, his fitness for agricultural labour, and at whose cost and charges he is imported; and in case any immigrant shall have died during the passage, or the number or names of the immigrants shall differ from the number and names of the immigrants stated in such duplicate list, the Immigration Agent-General shall note such death or difference upon such duplicate list, and thereupon, with the approbation of the Governor, shall grant a licence for the disembarkation and landing of the immigrants from such vessel.

Bounty or passage-money to be paid on certificate.

Schedule A.

9. If the Immigration Agent-General, with the assistance of the Health Officer of the port, on personal inspection of the vessel and immigrants, shall be satisfied that the provisions of the Imperial Passengers' Act, for the time being, in so far as they may apply, have been fully complied with, he shall transmit to the Governor a certificate in the form annexed, marked A, stating in the same the date of the arrival in this colony of such

immigrants, and the place from whence and the vessel in which such immigrants shall have arrived, and the sum of money payable in respect of such immigrants, and thereupon the Governor shall issue his warrant to the Receiver-General to pay the same: Provided always, that bounty or passage money shall be paid only for such immigrants as are landed alive in this colony.

Agent-General to provide for unemployed immigrants.

10. If any immigrants shall not on their arrival be immediately provided with employment, it shall be the duty of the Immigration Agent-General, with the approval of the Governor, to provide such immigrants with wholesome and sufficient food, and with convenient lodging on shore, until the means of earning their own subsistence can be procured for them; and the Immigration Agent-General shall deliver to the Governor an account, supported by all necessary vouchers, of the expenditure incurred by him in procuring such food and lodging, and if such account be approved of by the Governor, the same shall be paid.

Registers of immigrants to be kept.

11. The Immigration Agent-General shall keep, as heretofore, separate registers of all immigrants introduced into this colony, that is to say, firstly, a register of immigrants from any of Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies or from the possessions of the East India Company; secondly, a register of indentured Africans; thirdly, a register of Portuguese immigrants; fourthly, a register of Chinese immigrants; and fifthly, a register of all other immigrants not coming under the denomination of any of the immigrants mentioned in any of the aforesaid classes, and shall in each of such registers insert the name of each immigrant thereto belonging, and the number attached to his name in the list delivered by the master of the ship in which he shall be imported, and shall number each of the immigrants of each class by a particular number, proceeding in regular order with the other numbers, so that no two immigrants of the same class shall bear the same number, and shall insert in each of such registers, under different heads, the number, name, age, sex, size, birthplace, and any distinguishing mark of every immigrant belonging to such class, the time when, the place from whence, and the name of the party, if any, at whose cost and charges such immigrant may be imported, and the name of the vessel in which such immigrant shall have arrived, together with the cost of the passage of such immigrant, and whether such immigrant will or will not be entitled to a return passage, and of the amount of money which may have been advanced to such immigrant previous to his arrival in the colony, and which is to be repaid by him out of his wages.

Application by employer requiring immigrants.

12. Any employer who may be desirous of locating immigrants on his plantation under the provisions of this Ordinance, shall make application to the Immigration Agent-General, fully setting forth in writing the situation of such plantation, the name of the proprietor thereof, the number and description of the immigrants required, the nature of the labour to be performed, and all other particulars; and such application shall not be received unless accompanied with a certificate of the special justice of the district where such immigrants are to be located, that comfortable and sufficient accommodation, a suitable hospital, and medical attendance according to law have been provided for such immigrants; and the Immigration Agent-General shall make and keep in his office a true and faithful register of all such applications and certificates, numbering them in the order in which they shall be respectively received, (such numbering, however, not to give any right of preference to any person or plantation over any other person or plantation,) and every such application shall remain good and valid until the 1st day of August next after the date thereof, unless the number of immigrants applied for shall be earlier allotted, or unless such application be withdrawn by the applicant, or be rendered invalid by the death, insolvency, or absence unrepresented, of the party making the same.

Contracts made out of Colony when binding.

13. Unless by permission of Her Majesty's Government, previously had and obtained, no contract entered into by any employer with any immigrant from any part of India, or from any part of the African continent, or from the island of Madagascar, or from any other island adjacent to the coast of the African continent, and inhabited by the negro race, shall be valid, unless the same shall have been made within this colony.

Contracts made out of the colony with Chinese immigrants valid.

14. All contracts made and entered into out of this colony with any Chinese immigrant for the performance of any labour or service in agriculture within this colony, for any period not exceeding the term of five years, to be computed from the day of the landing of such immigrant in the colony, shall be valid and in force for the period therein mentioned: Provided always, that no such contract shall be valid or in force unless the same shall be reduced to writing, and shall be signed with the name, or in case of illiterate persons, with the mark of each of the contracting parties, in the presence of a Notary Public, British Consul, or other officer approved by Her Majesty's Government, nor unless such Notary Public, British Consul, or other officer shall subscribe the written contract in attestation of the fact that it was entered into by the parties voluntarily, and with a clear understanding of its meaning and effect.

Classification of liberated Africans.

15. All liberated Africans who may be hereafter sent to British Guiana at the expense of Her Majesty's Treasury shall be divided into two classes, the first class of whom shall comprise all those who, upon the inspection of the Immigration Agent-General and the Health Officer, shall be considered to be above the age of fifteen years; and the second class of whom shall comprise all those who, upon such inspection as aforesaid, shall be considered to be under the age of fifteen years.

Term of indenture with Portuguese; and with Coolies, Chinese, and liberated Africans of the first class.

16. Every immigrant from the island of Madeira, from any of the islands of the Azores, or the Cape de Verde or Canary Islands, shall be indentured, in the Form annexed, marked B., for a period of not less than twelve months nor more than three years from the date of

his arrival; and every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, or from any part of the African Continent from which immigration shall be permitted by Her Majesty's Government; every Chinese immigrant, and every liberated African of the first class, shall be indentured in the Form annexed, marked B., for a period of three years from the date of his arrival. Schedule B.

17. All liberated Africans of the second class shall be indentured until they shall have attained the age of eighteen years, in the Form annexed, marked C., or in such other Form as may be approved by the Governor. Contracts with liberated Africans of the second class. Schedule C.

18. Any person to whom any Chinese immigrants shall be allotted, for whose introduction bounty may be claimed, and who shall previously to their embarkation have entered into a contract engaging them to repay advances made to them by monthly deductions from their wages, shall pay to the party with whom such contract shall have been made the amount of such advances, provided the same shall not exceed twelve dollars for each immigrant. And such first-mentioned person shall be authorized to recover such amount by monthly deduction from the wages earned by such immigrants, in the proportion of not more than one dollar per month. Recovery of advances to Chinese immigrants.

19. It shall be lawful for every Chinese immigrant, and for every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, at any time, not less than one nor more than three months before the expiration of his indenture, to signify to the special justice of the district for the information of the Immigration Agent-General, whether he desires to be re-indentured to the same or to some other employer, for a further period of two years from the termination of the original indenture; or whether he will pay to the said Immigration Agent-General the sum of five pounds sterling; and it shall be lawful for such immigrant, in the event of his being so re-indentured, at any time not less than one nor more than three months before the expiration of the first year of such re-indenture, to signify to the said Immigration Agent-General whether he desires to be re-indentured to some other employer for the second year of such re-indenture, or whether he will pay to the said Immigration Agent-General the sum of two pounds and ten shillings sterling, on condition of being released from such re-indenture. And if any such immigrant shall fail to make application in the manner provided by this section, or shall fail to pay the amount herein-before required of him, at least ten days before the expiration of the indenture under which he may be then serving, such contract or indenture shall thereupon be deemed to be renewed in like manner as if he had applied to be so re-indentured. Renewal of Contracts with Indian Coolies and with Chinese.

20. On the arrival in this colony of any immigrants not already under a written contract with some individual, the Immigration Agent-General shall, with the approval of the Governor, proceed to locate them on such plantations as they may prefer, or if they do not desire to exercise any preference, shall locate them in such numbers and proportions as circumstances will admit of on those plantations for which applications for immigrants shall have been previously made; and each employer before he shall become entitled to the services of such immigrants shall enter into a contract, according to the Form annexed, marked B. or C., with each immigrant, or with the Immigration Agent-General on his behalf, as the nature of the case may require, for such period as any such immigrant is by any of the preceding sections of this Ordinance required to be indentured upon arrival, which said contract shall be in triplicate, and shall be prepared by the Sub-Immigration Agent in Georgetown, or in New Amsterdam, as the case may be, and for preparing which such Sub-Immigration Agent shall be entitled to the sum of Twenty-four Cents and no more for each such contract in triplicate as aforesaid, to be paid by the person to whom the immigrants are to be allotted, and one copy of such contract shall be delivered to the immigrant, another to the employer, and the third shall be forwarded to the special justice of the district: Provided, that it shall not be lawful for the said Immigration Agent-General in locating such immigrants as aforesaid to separate husbands from wives, nor children under fifteen years of age from their parents or natural protectors; and provided further, that no immigrants shall be allotted to any employer who is in arrear in the payment of any sum due to the colony for or on account of immigrants previously allotted to such employer. Location of immigrants. Schedule B and C.

21. Every employer to whom any such immigrant shall be indentured on arrival as aforesaid, shall pay to the Receiver-General a part of the bounty or passage-money which shall be due, or shall have been paid in respect of such immigrant, at the following rates, that is to say:— Payment by employer of half of bounty or passage-money.

For each Chinese immigrant, not exceeding	-	60 dollars.
For each Indian immigrant, not exceeding	-	30 „
For each Portuguese immigrant, not exceeding	-	15 „

or at such other rates as may from time to time be duly declared by resolution of the Governor and Court of Policy: five dollars of which shall be paid at the execution of the contract, and for the balance of which three promissory notes shall be given, each bearing even date with the said contract; the first of which promissory notes shall be for one-third of such balance, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, payable one year after the date thereof; the second of which promissory notes shall be for another third of said balance, with interest as aforesaid, payable two years after the date thereof; and the third of which promissory notes shall be for the remaining third of said balance, with interest as aforesaid, payable three years after date. The Receiver-General, on the behalf of

the colony, shall recover the capital and interest of all such notes by parate execution, and shall have and hold for such capital and interest a preferent lien on the estates to which such immigrants shall be allotted, over and above all other liens and mortgages, legal and conventional, except liens and preferent rights of the Crown, and such as are allowed or created by any Ordinance or enactment; the employer, however, to have the right of paying at once the whole of the capital money payable by him as aforesaid, or of redeeming any of the promissory notes with rebate of interest at any time before the same shall become due: Provided always, that lessees of estates to which immigrants may be allotted shall be required either to provide approved endorsers to such promissory notes as aforesaid, or to pay the whole amount due upon the execution of the indentures of such immigrants.

Receiver-General to have list of allotments and amounts due.

22. The Immigration Agent-General shall, whenever he allots immigrants, transmit forthwith to the Receiver-General a list of the estates to which such immigrants have been allotted, stating the number and description of immigrants allotted to each, and the amount becoming payable from time to time in respect thereof respectively.

Lists of immigrants to be published annually.

Schedule D.

23. The Immigration Agent-General shall as soon as possible after the first day of January in each and every year, publish in the "Official Gazette," and in one other newspaper of the colony, a list in the form annexed marked D., or in such other form as may be approved of by the Governor, of all vessels which have arrived in the colony with immigrants during the year preceding, the number of immigrants so arrived, and the distribution of such immigrants.

Manager of plantation to keep muster roll.

Schedule E.

24. The manager or person in charge of any plantation or estate upon which any Chinese, Indian, or African immigrants shall be employed, whether under indenture or under monthly contracts as herein-after provided, shall for each and every month that such immigrants shall continue to be so employed, keep a Muster Roll of the form annexed, marked E., and it shall be the duty of such manager or person in charge, and he is hereby required to direct all such immigrants to attend each day, at such convenient time or times, and at such convenient place or places on the plantation or estate as may by him be assigned for that purpose, and such manager or person in charge shall then and there, either personally, or by means of some person deputed by him, call over the names of all such immigrants, and note upon the muster roll whether they, or any of them, are present or absent; and such muster roll shall daily be signed by the person by whom the names shall have been so called over, and shall be carefully preserved by the manager or person in charge of the plantation or estate for the purposes of this Ordinance; and any manager or person in charge of any plantation or estate who shall fail to comply with the provisions of this section, or shall make any false entry in the muster roll to be by him kept, shall be liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding twenty-three dollars for every such offence, and in default of payment to imprisonment not exceeding five days.

Term of verbal contract.

25. Every verbal or unwritten contract or agreement for the hire of any immigrant shall, in the absence of proof of any express agreement between the parties to the contrary, be deemed and taken in law to be a contract or agreement for one month, and to be renewable from month to month, and shall be deemed and taken in law to be so renewed by the parties, unless a week's previous notice or warning be given by either party to the other of his or her intention not to renew the same, and the wages for such service shall be payable weekly; and any employer shall be entitled to discharge any immigrant hired under the provisions of this section, without previous notice, provided such immigrant be instantly paid his wages for the time he has served, and also for fifteen days from the time of such discharge: Provided, that any such verbal or unwritten contract or agreement may at any time be determined by the misconduct of either party in their relative capacity of employer and servant, which may be proved by either party against the other.

Penalty on breach of verbal contract by employer.

26. If any employer shall terminate any contract or agreement made with any immigrant under the provisions of the preceding section, except with the consent of such immigrant, or by giving notice, or paying wages, or for misconduct, as therein provided, such employer shall forfeit and pay to the use of the immigrant a sum equal to one month's wages, according to the rate of wages which may have been fixed by and between the parties; or if the rate of wages shall not have been so fixed, then such sum as the justice may consider fair and reasonable, as and for a month's wages, in addition to the wages due to the immigrant at the time of the termination of such contract.

Immigrant may prove ill-usage in defence.

27. On any complaint made by any employer against any immigrant for refusing or wilfully neglecting to perform any verbal or unwritten contract, such immigrant shall be at liberty to show by evidence, in answer to such complaint, that he terminated his service or contract in consequence of ill-usage by his employer, or for some other good and sufficient cause to be judged of by the justice.

Penalty on ill-usage.

28. If any employer shall ill-use any immigrant, he shall be liable on conviction before two justices to a penalty not exceeding fifty dollars.

Justice may discharge from contract and decide in any case as to wages due, in addition to any other order on complaint made.

29. Upon any complaint made by any employer or immigrant, the justice by whom such complaint shall be heard, may, in addition to any other order made on such complaint, award to such immigrant the whole or such proportion of the wages appearing due to him as such justice shall think reasonable, or shall authorize the employer to retain the whole or any specified portion of such wages, and may discharge such employer or immigrant from his contract or service, and shall in such case give to such employer or immigrant, as the

case may require, a certificate of such discharge and of such award without any fee or consideration.

Governor may discharge immigrant from service, on account of ill-usage by employer.

30. If it shall be made to appear to the Governor that any employer of any indentured immigrant, or other person acting under his authority, shall have been convicted of gross or repeated ill-usage or ill-treatment of any such immigrant, the Governor may direct the immigrant so ill-used or ill-treated, and also, if he shall so think fit, every other immigrant indentured to such employer, to be released and discharged from all further service to such employer, and thereupon such immigrant or immigrants shall be wholly discharged from all further service to such employer; and the Governor shall direct the Immigration Agent-General to indenture immigrants discharged under the provisions of this or of the preceding section to such other employer as to him may seem fit: Provided always, that the term of service for which every such immigrant shall be indentured by any such new indenture shall not, together with the time of his or her past service, exceed the period of service for which such immigrant was previously bound.

Immigrant absenting himself, refusing to work, or guilty of misconduct.

31. Any immigrant who, without reasonable cause, shall neglect or refuse to attend at the daily call of the muster-roll, or at and during the time and hours, or at the place where and when he shall have contracted or agreed to attend, in commencing or carrying on any work, during such hours as it shall be usual so to attend, or who, without reasonable cause, shall leave unfinished or refuse to finish any work contracted or agreed to be done, or who shall be guilty of any drunkenness, wilful disobedience of orders, insolence, or neglect of duty or other misconduct in the service of his employer, or who shall quit the service of such employer without leave or reasonable cause before the end of the period stated in his indenture, or before the end of the period for which he shall have verbally contracted or agreed to serve, as the case may be, shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit the whole or any part of any wages then due, and not exceeding the wages of one week, and be punished by fine or imprisonment, with or without hard labour, at the discretion of the justice, such fine not to exceed twenty-three dollars, and such imprisonment not to exceed thirty days.

On complaint of absence muster roll to be produced.

32. In the case of any complaint made by any employer against any Chinese, Indian, or African immigrant for absenting himself from his service or employment, it shall be lawful for the special justice of the district, and he is hereby required to demand the production of the muster-roll of the plantation or estate for the month during which such absence shall have taken place, and if such muster roll shall not be produced, or if it shall appear on inspection thereof and shall be proved in evidence that the names of such immigrants have not been duly called over as herein-before enacted, then and in any such case such complaint shall be dismissed.

Amount of industrial service how to be ascertained.

33. In the case of any such complaint for neglect or refusal to attend during reasonable hours of work or for leaving work unfinished, it shall be necessary, in order to obtain a conviction, to prove that such immigrant has neglected or refused to attend during any time not exceeding, if he shall be employed in the field, seven hours between sunrise and sunset, and if he shall be employed within the buildings of the plantation or estate, ten hours between the hours of five in the morning and eight in the evening; and that if such last-mentioned complaint shall be made in respect to the non-performance of work contracted or agreed to be done by the task, it shall be necessary, in order to obtain a conviction, to prove that such immigrant has not performed within the week five tasks of the extent assigned for the same rate of wages as daily tasks to the creole labourers of the colony.

Employer failing to provide employment.

34. If it shall be established before any two justices of the peace, on complaint preferred by any indentured immigrant that such immigrant is not provided by his employer with sufficient work to enable him to earn a just amount of wages in the terms of his contract, such justices shall declare and adjudge the contract or indenture of such immigrant to be thereby cancelled, and thereupon it shall be lawful for the Governor to cause such immigrant to be indentured to some other employer, who shall be required to pay or to give promissory notes in manner and form provided by section 21 of this Ordinance, for such sums as may be the due proportion of the bounty or passage money for the unexpired period of the term of service transferred to him,—the original employer and his estate remaining liable, however, for such sum or sums as may be due for the expired term or proportion of the whole period of service as expressed in the original contract or indenture.

Abatement of wages for misconduct.

35. Upon any complaint by any immigrant for non-payment of wages or damages, for breach of contract or misconduct by his employer, it shall be lawful for the justice to make a proportional abatement out of any sum to be awarded as the wages or damages due to such immigrant, for such days or time as he shall be proved to have been, without the consent of his employer, absent from or neglecting his service or work, and also for the value of any damage done to the property of his employer by or through the misconduct or negligence or carelessness of such immigrant.

Immigrant endangering or destroying property.

36. If any such immigrant as aforesaid shall, by negligence, or other improper conduct, lose, throw away, endanger, or damage the property of his employer, or shall endanger such property by a careless or improper use of fire, or shall cruelly ill-use any cattle or other live stock belonging to his employer or entrusted to his care, or by negligence shall suffer or occasion to be cruelly ill-used any such cattle or live stock, every such offender, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, with or without

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hard labour, such fine not to exceed twenty-three dollars, and such imprisonment not to exceed thirty days.

Limitation of period for preferring complaints.

37. No complaint by any employer against any immigrant or by any immigrant against any employer, made under any of the eleven preceding sections of this Ordinance, shall be entertained unless the same shall be preferred within thirty days after the occurrence of the subject matter of such complaint. And upon the hearing of any such complaint, no abatement or deduction shall be made from the amount determined to be due to either party by reason of any misconduct of which such party may have been guilty at any time exceeding thirty days before the institution of such complaint.

Issue of certificate of industrial residence,

38. Every immigrant, of whatever description, who shall have completed the term of service under contract or indenture herein-before required of him respectively, or shall have paid the sums herein before required to be paid in commutation of such service, shall be entitled to demand and receive from the Immigration Agent-General, free of all charge, a certificate of industrial residence, to be written or printed upon parchment,

Schedule F.

according to the form in the Schedule F. to this Ordinance annexed, and shall thereupon be released from all further obligation to perform service under contract or indenture; and such certificate shall be delivered free of cost to such immigrant by the said Immigration Agent-General at the proper time, if he can be found, whether application shall be made

or of exemption from labour.

for the same or not: Provided that it shall be lawful for the Governor, on being satisfied that any immigrant is, whether from sickness or any other cause, permanently disabled and unfit to perform any labour, to authorize the Immigration Agent-General to grant a certificate of exemption from labour; and provided that notice shall be published by the Immigration Agent-General for the space of one month before the issue of any certificate under this section of the intention to issue the same.

Register of certificates.

39. The Immigration Agent-General shall keep a register of all certificates issued under the provisions of the preceding section, which register shall contain the description, sex, age, and any other distinguishing mark, as clearly as the same can be set forth, of every immigrant to whom any such certificate may be granted; and if at any time any question

Extract to be evidence.

shall arise, whether before a court of law or elsewhere, respecting any such immigrant, and he shall be unable to produce such certificate, an extract from the said register under the hand of the said Immigrant Agent-General, accompanied by a certificate under his hand of

Issue of duplicate.

the identity of such immigrant, shall be deemed good and sufficient evidence; and if at any time any immigrant shall prove to the satisfaction of the said Immigration Agent-General that such certificate has been lost or destroyed, he shall be entitled to receive a duplicate of the same on payment of the sum of fifty cents of a dollar for such duplicate.

Employer to report desertion of immigrant forthwith to magistrate,

40. Every employer of any immigrant under indenture shall, within twenty-four hours from the time at which any such immigrant shall have deserted from such plantation, report such desertion at the nearest police station or to the special justice for the district, as may be most convenient, stating in such report the number and name by which such immigrant is described in his indenture, with the date thereof, and any other information likely to facilitate the apprehension of such deserter; and in case such report shall be sent in the first instance to the special justice of the district, he shall forthwith send it to the police

Publication of report.

officer in charge of the nearest police station, and so soon as any report of a desertion is delivered to such officer, he shall copy the same and send on such report to the nearest police station in each direction, and the police officers respectively in charge of such stations shall, in like manner, copy and send on such report from station to station until it reaches the head station of the county; and the Inspector-General of Police shall, at the

Schedule G.

end of each quarter, make up and transmit to the Governor a return in the form marked G., of all desertions so reported, and of the result up to that date; and in case any employer shall fail to comply with the provisions of this section, he shall forfeit and pay a sum of not less than five dollars, nor more than ten dollars, to be recovered on conviction, in default of payment, by warrant of distress in manner and form provided by Ordinance No. 30, of the year 1850.

Penalty on harbouring or enticing away immigrant under indenture, &c.

41. Every person who shall harbour, conceal, or employ any immigrant being at the time under a written contract to labour for some other employer, or who shall remove, or entice, or solicit away from his employer any immigrant, shall, for every such offence, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding twenty-three dollars, and shall further pay to the employer to whom such immigrant shall be indentured the sum of one dollar for each day during which such immigrant shall be proved to have been so harboured or employed, and if the employer or person in charge of any such immigrant shall state upon oath before a justice of the peace that he has reasonable cause to suspect that such immigrant is harboured, concealed, or employed on the premises of any person, such justice of the peace may grant a warrant to search for such immigrant, and bring him or her, and the person by whom such immigrant may be harboured, concealed, or employed, before him, to be dealt with as provided by this Ordinance: Provided always, that in every case in which any dispute or difference shall arise as to whether any person who shall have harboured, concealed, or employed any immigrant, being at the time under a written contract to labour, or who shall have removed or enticed away, or shall have solicited or enticed any such immigrant to remove from the employment or service of his or her employer, had knowledge of any such immigrant being at the time under such contract, the proof of the absence or want of knowledge of every such person shall be on such

person, and the proof of the knowledge of such person shall not be on the party aggrieved, complaining, or informing.

Apprehension of immigrant wandering from estate.

42. It shall be lawful for the employer of any Chinese, Indian, or African immigrant under a written contract to labour, for the servant of such employer, or for any member of the police force or rural constable, to apprehend, without warrant, such immigrant who, on any day on which he shall be bound to labour, shall be found at a distance of more than two miles from the estate on which he shall be engaged to labour without a ticket of leave signed by such employer, and to cause such immigrant to be taken back to such estate; and that it shall be lawful for any member of the police force or constable, if he shall see reasonable cause for so doing, to call upon any such immigrant to produce to him his certificate of industrial residence or ticket of leave, and if such immigrant shall be unable or shall refuse so to do, then, without any unnecessary delay, to take such immigrant before the justice, to be dealt with according to law; and that if affidavit shall be made before any justice, showing reasonable ground to suppose that any immigrant is harboured or concealed, or employed on the premises of any person, such justice shall grant a warrant to search for such immigrant to bring him before him to be dealt with according to law.

Special issue of certificates to certain Indian immigrants.

43. And whereas it appears that certain immigrants from the possessions of the East India Company have received from this colony certain sums of money upon documents implying an obligation on such immigrants to enter into indentures for service for the period of five years from the date of the payment of such money, in conformity with the provisions of Ordinance No. 21 of the year 1850, and whereas many such immigrants have not done so, it shall be lawful for the special justice of the district, and he is hereby required to call upon any such immigrant who may be brought before him, under the provisions of the preceding section, to enter into an indenture of service with some employer for such portion of the five years, to be computed from the date of the payment to such immigrant herein-before mentioned, as shall then remain unexpired. And if any such immigrant shall refuse so to do, he shall not be entitled to receive a certificate of industrial residence at the expiration of such five years, so to be computed as aforesaid.

Half-yearly returns of immigrants by employers.

44. Every employer of immigrants under a written contract to labour shall, on or before the tenth day of January and tenth day of July in each and every year, make out and transmit to the Immigration Agent-General a return in writing of the number of immigrants who were in his service under written contract on the last day of the preceding month, which return shall be made out in the manner and form specified in the schedule hereto annexed, marked H., and shall be described as the return of the person with whom such immigrants shall have been under a written contract or otherwise, and shall contain a specification of the total number of such immigrants, and also of all deductions from the original number of immigrants under written contracts as aforesaid, which shall have taken place within the last preceding six months by death or desertion, stating the names, numbers, and vessels of import, of those who may have died or deserted, and also of those who may have returned to the performance of their contract after their desertion, giving the like description, and also of the births of any children among such immigrants, specifying the ages and sexes of such children, and the names and numbers of their parents; and also a declaration that the contents of such return are in all respects true and correct; and any person who shall neglect to transmit, within fourteen days after the time specified, any such return as aforesaid, shall pay a sum of ten dollars, and a like sum for each and every subsequent month, during which such neglect shall continue; and any person making or signing any such return or declaration, knowing the same to be false, shall be liable to be punished as by law provided in the case of wilful and corrupt perjury.

Schedule H.

Return to be made of immigrant imprisoned.

45. Whenever any Chinese, Indian, or African immigrant under indenture shall be sentenced by any court of criminal jurisdiction, or by any justice of the peace, under any Ordinance or law in force, to any term of imprisonment, it shall be the duty of such court of criminal jurisdiction, or of such justice, as the case may be, within the period of one calendar month from the date of such sentence, to forward to the office of the Immigration Agent-General within the city of Georgetown a return setting forth as accurately as may be the name of such immigrant, the name of the estate to which he is indentured, the offence of which he shall have been convicted, and the term of imprisonment to which he shall have been sentenced.

Entry in register of births, deaths, and desertion.

46. The Immigration Agent-General shall enter in the proper place in the register required by the 11th section of this Ordinance, all such births and deaths as shall be reported to him under the provisions of section 44, or as shall in any other manner be brought to his knowledge; and shall keep a separate book in which shall be entered a full description of every immigrant reported to have deserted, or to have been imprisoned, and the period during which he shall in consequence have been absent from the performance of his contract; and if it shall appear by such separate book that any such immigrant shall have been, whether at one time or upon different occasions, absent from the performance of his contract for one month or more for each year that he shall have been indentured, it shall be lawful for the said Immigration Agent-General, and he is hereby required to withhold the certificate of the 36th and 41st sections of this Ordinance required to be given, until such immigrant shall have completed the term of industrial residence required by law.

Suspension of issue of certificate.

Provision of accommodation and hospital.

47. Every estate on which such immigrants, whether indentured or not indentured, are located, shall be provided with comfortable and sufficient dwellings, and with a proper

hospital and hospital furniture, medicine, and nurses, and shall have a regularly licensed medical practitioner to attend the sick, and in default thereof the proprietor of such estate shall be liable to a penalty of twenty-three dollars, and a like sum for each and every fourteen days during which such default shall continue, and that it shall be lawful for the Governor, if he shall think fit so to do, in the case of any proprietor convicted more than once of a breach of the provisions of this section within a period of three months, to direct all such immigrants to be released and discharged from all further service to such employer, and thereupon such immigrants shall be wholly discharged from such service; and the Governor may direct such immigrants to be indentured to any other employer whom he may select, and who may be willing to receive the same.

Instruction of Africans.

48. All liberated Africans of the second class shall be allowed one afternoon in each week, to be appointed by the Governor, for the purpose of receiving education and religious instruction, and any manager or other person in charge of a plantation preventing the attendance of any such African at any school on such afternoon as aforesaid, or obstructing the minister of the parish, or any minister of the Christian religion, or any licensed schoolmaster, duly authorized thereto by the Governor, in visiting and instructing any such African, or neglecting or refusing to provide a fit and proper place, if required so to do by the Inspector of schools, for the communication of such instruction, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five dollars for each such offence, to be recovered upon the complaint of the Inspector of schools, or any person authorized by him in writing: Provided always, that any such African who shall absent himself from work on such afternoon as aforesaid, and shall not attend the school provided for him, or receive instruction therein, shall be liable to be punished by fine or imprisonment in manner and form provided by section 31 of this Ordinance.

Inspection of plantation by Immigration Agent-General.

49. It shall be lawful for the Immigration Agent-General to enter into and upon any plantation where any immigrant may be employed, and to inspect the state and condition of such immigrant, and inquire into any complaint which the employer may have against any such immigrant, or any such immigrant may have against his employer.

Penalty on obstruction of Immigration Agent-General.

50. Every person who shall wilfully do any act whereby the Immigration Agent-General may be prevented or obstructed in the performance of his duty under this Ordinance shall, on conviction thereof before any two or more justices of the peace, forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding forty-eight dollars for every such offence, as to the convicting justices shall seem fit.

Issue of passport to immigrants.

51. Every immigrant who shall have acquired a right to a certificate of industrial residence shall and may demand and receive from the Immigration Agent-General a passport, which shall be delivered to him free of all charge whatsoever, and such immigrant shall thereupon be at liberty to depart from this colony on paying the expense of his own passage: Provided always that nothing in this section contained shall be deemed or taken to imply any obligation upon this colony to provide a passage for any such immigrant at any time before the expiration of the term for which he shall have consented to reside herein.

Right to back passage of Coolies introduced before Dec. 1853.

52. Every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, who shall have arrived in this colony at any time before the month of December 1853, and who shall have acquired a certificate of industrial residence in manner provided by the 38th or 43rd sections of this Ordinance, shall be entitled, at the expiration of five years from the time of his arrival in this colony, or at the expiration of the further term for which he may have consented, on receipt of a sum of money, to remain in the same, to be provided at the expense of the said colony with a passage back to the port from whence he sailed.

And of Coolies introduced after that date.

53. Whereas the Governor-General of India in Council has given his assent to the emigration to this colony of natives of the possessions of the East India Company, under engagements to render industrial service for a period of ten years, in consideration whereof they are to be provided with a passage back to their own country at the expense of the colony; and whereas Her Majesty's Government deem it expedient to provide for the reduction, upon certain conditions, of the said period of industrial service: Every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, who shall have arrived, or who may arrive in this colony at any time during or after the month of December 1853, and who shall have acquired a certificate of industrial residence in manner provided by the 38th section of this Ordinance, shall be entitled, at the expiration of ten years from the time of such arrival, and upon payment to the Immigrant Agent-General of the sum of thirty-five dollars, to be provided with a back passage to the port from which he sailed at the expense of the said colony: Provided that if the said Governor-General of India in Council shall so require it, every such immigrant shall be relieved from all liability to payment for the said back passage on condition of his entering annually into indentures of service for each of the last five years of the period of his engagement, or of paying to the Immigration Agent-General the sum of two pounds and ten shillings or twelve dollars for each such year; and provided further, that if any such immigrant shall, on claiming such back passage, whether the Governor-General of India in Council shall so require it or not, prove that he has been serving under indentures or annual or longer contracts for the whole period of his residence in this colony, he shall not be required to make any such payment; and every indenture or contract which may be made under the provisions of this section shall be made in manner provided by the 20th section of this Ordinance, and every employer with whom any such immigrant shall enter

into such indenture or contract shall, at the time of the execution of the same, in addition to the fee by the said section imposed for the preparation thereof, pay to the Immigration Agent-General a sum calculated at the rate of seven dollars per annum for the period stated in such indenture or contract.

Free passage for invalids.

54. The Governor may order a back passage to be provided at the expense of the colony for any immigrant who may have become permanently unfit for labour, anything herein-before contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Penalty on master of vessel receiving immigrant without passport.

55. It shall not be lawful for any immigrant who shall have been introduced into the colony at the public expense to depart from the colony without having first obtained a passport in manner herein-before provided; and every master or other person in charge of any vessel who shall receive or harbour on board of such vessel, with the intention of carrying out of this colony any such immigrant, who shall not have obtained such passport, shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum of one hundred dollars for each and every such immigrant whom he shall have so received or harboured with such intention as aforesaid; and every such penalty shall and may be sued for, prosecuted, and recovered for and on behalf of Her Majesty by the Attorney-General from such master or other person being in command of any such vessel, or from the owner of such vessel, or from the surety of the master of such vessel, or from any or either of them.

Inspection of vessel sailing with immigrants.

56. Upon the departure of any vessel from this colony having Indian immigrants on board returning to the port from whence they came, the Immigration Agent-General, accompanied by the health officer, shall proceed on board of such vessel, and with the assistance of such health officer shall ascertain, by personal inspection of the vessel and immigrants, whether the vessel is fit and suitable in all respects for the purpose, and whether all the arrangements made for the passage and treatment of the immigrants are in due conformity with law, and especially with the provisions of an Act passed by the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India and Council, intituled "An Act for regulating the Emigration of the Native Inhabitants of the Territories under the Government of the East India Company to Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad," and such Immigration Agent-General shall personally muster such immigrants and ascertain whether they and each of them be the parties lawfully entitled to back passage, and shall certify upon the list to be by him furnished to the master of such vessel, the total number of immigrants embarked, together with the state and condition of such immigrants, and that they are provided with clothing suitable for the voyage.

Payment of health officer.

57. Such health officer shall be allowed as his remuneration for services performed under this Ordinance the sum of ten cents of a dollar for every immigrant on board of any such vessel arriving, and the same sum for every immigrant departing at the expense of the colony.

Immigrant using false document.

58. If any immigrant shall fraudulently obtain, transfer, use, or attempt to use any false, forged, or counterfeit certificate of industrial residence, passport, ticket of leave, or other document referred to in this Ordinance, or shall in any manner alter or erase any part of such document, such immigrant shall be subject, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding twenty-three dollars, or to imprisonment at hard labour not exceeding thirty days.

Half of all fines to be paid to the informer.

59. If any person shall be sentenced by any justice to imprisonment for any offence against this Ordinance, or shall fail to pay any fine imposed upon him by such justice for such offence, he shall be committed to the nearest gaol of the district in which he shall be convicted, there to remain in conformity with his sentence; and one half of every fine imposed by this Ordinance shall be paid to the informer, and in any case where the party convicted shall not pay such fine, it shall be lawful for the Governor to reward such informer, provided that such reward to be so paid by the Governor shall in no case exceed the sum of one dollar.

Payment of salaries and of sums due.

60. All salaries of officers granted, and all expenses incurred in virtue of this Ordinance, shall be paid out of such funds as are raised for the purposes of immigration; that all monies payable by any person in virtue of any of the provisions of this Ordinance, and which shall not be declared to be payable to any particular officer or person, shall be payable to the Receiver-General or to the special justice awarding the payment of any such money; that all sums received by the special justice, or any other person, and not payable over to any particular person shall be paid over to the Receiver-General; that all monies received by the Receiver-General under this Ordinance and every other Ordinance relative to immigrants not otherwise appropriated shall be applied to immigration purposes; and that the Receiver-General shall render annually to the Governor and Court of Policy, combined with the financial representatives of the inhabitants of the colony, a statement of all receipts and payments for immigration purposes.

Adjudication of complaints under this Ordinance.

61. All complaints, differences, and disputes which shall arise between employer and immigrant respecting any matter or thing treated of in this Ordinance shall and may be heard and determined, except where otherwise specially provided, by any justice specially appointed, or to be specially appointed under the provisions of Ordinance No. 19 of 1845.

Interpretation of terms.

62. Throughout this Ordinance the words and expressions herein-after mentioned shall have and bear the following meanings, that is to say, the words "Her Majesty" shall mean Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors; the word "Governor" shall mean any person who for the time being shall be in the lawful administration of the Government of this colony; the word "Receiver-General" shall also mean Assistant Receiver-General;

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the term "Immigration Agent-General" shall not only mean the Immigration Agent-General, but also any sub-agent appointed by the Governor to act in any particular case, or on any particular occasion, in the place and stead of the Immigration Agent-General; the word "immigrant" shall include all immigrants already introduced or who may hereafter be introduced into this colony at the expense of the British Treasury, or at the expense of this colony, or for whose introduction, although the same may be under private contract, the colony may hereafter pay bounty; the word "writing" shall also mean printing; the word "servant" shall mean any person employed and duly authorized by the proprietor of any plantation to which immigrants shall be allotted; the word "contract" and the words "written contract" shall mean also any indenture or agreement written or printed, or partly written and partly printed; the word "indenture" shall also mean "contract;" the word "estate" shall also mean plantation; the word "plantation" shall include any sugar, cocoa, coffee, plantain, rice, or cotton estate, or any wood-cutting establishment, or any cattle farm; the word "employer" shall include the proprietor or manager or other person having the direction of or the chief authority upon any such estate or plantation, or of or upon any cattle farm, or of or upon any wood-cutting establishment on which any immigrant shall be employed; every word importing the singular number only shall extend and be applied to several persons or things, as well as to one person or thing; every word importing the plural number shall extend and be applied to one person, matter, or thing, as well as to several persons, matters, or things; every word importing the masculine gender only shall extend and be applied to a female as well as to a male, unless in any of the cases aforesaid it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

Ordinance when to take effect.

63. This Ordinance shall commence and take effect when and so soon as the Governor shall by proclamation declare that Her Majesty has been pleased to assent to the same.

And that no ignorance may be pretended of this our Ordinance, these presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, City of Georgetown, Demerara, this Tenth day of October One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

By command of the Court,

WM. WALKER, Secretary.

A. (SECTION 9.)

Immigration Agent-General's Certificate of Arrival.

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the ship (master) arrived at this port from on the of bringing immigrants above fourteen years of age between the ages of fourteen and six years, and under six years of age; that I, assisted by the Health Officer of the Port, have personally inspected the said vessel and immigrants, and find that the provisions of the Imperial Passengers' Act for the time being, as far as the same are applicable, have been duly complied with; and finally, that the amount payable in respect of such immigrants is dollars.

Dated at day of 185 .

A. B., Immigration Agent-General.

B. (SECTIONS 16 and 20.)

British Guiana.

Be it remembered that on this day of in the year of our Lord 18 A.B. of and C.D. of appeared before me E.F., Immigration Agent-General of the colony of British Guiana, and in my presence signed their names or marks (as the case may be) to the following contract of service:—

The said A.B. agrees to hire the services of the said C.D., and the said C.D. agrees to render to the said A.B., his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, services in the capacity of a for the term of years, commencing on the day of in the year 18 , and terminating on the day of in the year 18 . And it is further agreed between the said parties that the said C.D. shall be employed by the said A.B., his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, on plantation . And it is further agreed that the said A.B., his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns shall pay to the said C.D. as such labourer aforesaid the same rate of wages as is paid to the labourers not under indenture or contract working on said estate, and that such wages shall be paid on the last day of the . And it is further agreed that in the event of the said plantation being sold at execution sale or by the Administrator-General, the said C.D. shall serve the purchaser thereof, his heirs,

executors, administrators, or assigns, and shall be paid wages by the said purchaser, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, in conformity with this contract.

A. B.
C. D.

The preceding contract was signed by the above-named parties in my presence on the day and year above written, voluntarily, the same being, as far as I am able to judge, fully understood by them respectively.

E.F., Immigration Agent-General.

C. (SECTIONS 17 and 20.)

British Guiana.

This Indenture made the day of in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and between A.B., Immigration Agent-General in the colony of British Guiana, for and on behalf of C.D., a liberated (male or female) African of the age of years, and numbered recently sent to this colony under the authority of Her Majesty's Government, for the purpose of being located and established herein of the one part, and E.F. of in this colony of the other part:—

Witnesseth, that in virtue of the Ordinance in such case made and provided, and in consideration of the covenants, promises, and agreements on the part and behalf of the said E.F. herein-after contained, he the said A.B., as such Immigration Agent-General, has indented, placed, and bound, and by these Presents doth indent, place, and bind the said C.D. (the African indented) to and with E.F. of to serve for the term of years, to be computed from the day of the date of these Presents; and doth hereby for and on behalf of the said C.D., to and with the said E.F., covenant, promise, and agree that the said C.D. shall and will during all and every part of the said term of years, truly and faithfully serve the said E.F. as a labourer on plantation and the said E.F. doth hereby covenant, promise, and agree to and with the said A.B. for and on behalf of the said C.D.—That he the said E.F. shall and will, until the said C.D. shall have attained the age of fifteen years, find and provide the said C.D. with suitable and sufficient diet, clothing, tools, or implements of work, lodging, and medical attendance, in a like and equal manner with the rest of the Africans under the age of fifteen years, indented in this colony, and according to the laws in such case made and provided, and according to all other Ordinances and laws which may hereafter be made touching or concerning Africans under the age of fifteen years, indented in this colony, and that he the said E.F. for and on account of the said C.D. until the said C.D. shall attain the said age of fifteen shall and will keep or cause to be kept a regular account, in which the said C.D. shall be debited with the costs and charges of such diet, clothing, tools, or implements of work, at the same prices paid for the same by the said E.F., and shall and will credit the said C.D. for all work by him or her done and performed, at the same rate of wages paid or payable to any other labourer on said plantation for the like work; and shall also allow to the said C.D. during the continuance of these Presents for education and religious instruction such one afternoon in every week as shall be appointed or assigned by the Governor of the colony for the time being.

In witness whereof he the said A.B., the Immigration Agent-General for and on behalf of the said C.D., and he the said E.F. have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written.

D. (SECTION 23.)

Annual List of Arrivals and Allotments of Immigrants.

No. of Arrival.	Name of Vessel.	No. of Immigrants.	From what Port or Place.	Adults.			Children between Six and Fourteen Years.			Children under Six Years.			No. of Immigrants allotted, including Children.		To what Plantation allotted.	Remarks
				M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.		

Dated at this day of 18 .

A.B., Immigration Agent-General.

N.B.—If any discrepancy exists between the number arrived and those allotted explain it in the column for remarks.

E.—(SECTION 24.)

Muster Roll of Plantation for the Month of

Description of Immigrant.	Name.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.	10th.	11th.	12th.	13th.	14th.	15th.	16th.	17th.	18th.	19th.	20th.	21st.	22nd.	23rd.	24th.	25th.	26th.	27th.	28th.	29th.	30th.	31st.	Remarks.
Portuguese -																																	
Coolie - -																																	
Chinese - -																																	
African - -																																	

I. G., Manager or Overseer.

F.—(SECTION 38.)

No.

This is to certify, that the Immigrant herein-under described has completed his term of service (or has paid the amount required in commutation of his service) under the provisions of the Ordinance No. of the year 1854:—

Name.	Sex.	Description.	Remarks.

(Signed) A. B.

G.—(SECTION 40.)

Quarterly Return of Desertions for the District

Number.	Description of Immigrant.	Name.	Sex.	Date of Indenture.	Plantation from which deserted.	Date of Desertion.	Date of Return to Service.

H.—(SECTION 44.)

Half-yearly Return of the entire Number of Immigrants located on Plantation in the Parish of in the Colony of British Guiana.

	Madras Coolies.		Calcutta Coolies.		Africans.		Portuguese.		Chinese.		Total.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Number remaining at last Return - -												
Number born, received, or returned from desertion since last Return - - - -												
Total - - - -												
Number died, departed, or deserted, since last Return - - - - -												
Total on the Estate - - -												

Specification of Birth.

Name of Infant.	Sex.	Name of Father.	Name of Mother.	Father's Number.	Father's Ship of Import.	Father's Country.

Specification of Deserters.

Name of Deserter.	Sex.	Country.	Number.	Ship of Import.	Date of Desertion.

Specification of Deaths.

Name of Deceased.	Sex.	Country.	Number.	Ship of Import.	Date of Death.	Cause of Death.

Specification of Immigrants returning after Desertion.

Name of Immigrant.	Sex.	Country.	Number.	Ship of Import.	Date of Return.	Date of Desertion.

I, of Plantation do solemnly and sincerely declare that the above is a true and correct Return of the Immigrants on Plantation on the day of 18 , as required by the 42nd section of Ordinance 7, of 1854.

Signature.

APPENDIX No. 2.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Court of Policy.—No. 8, 1855.

An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 7, of the Year 1854, *in respect to the Payments of Contract Duty to be made by the Employers of Indian Immigrant Labourers.*

(P. E. WODEHOUSE.)

ORDINANCE ENACTED by His Excellency PHILIP EDMUND WODEHOUSE, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c., by and with the advice and consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the said colony.

To all to whom these Presents do, may, or shall come, greeting; be it known:—

Preamble. WHEREAS by the Ordinance No. 7, of 1854, it was enacted that every employer to whom any immigrant might be allotted should pay to the Receiver-General a certain part of the bounty or passage money which might be due, or which might have been paid in respect of such immigrant, in manner therein set forth: And whereas it is necessary to make other provision in some respects with regard to such payments by employers: Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, as follows:—

Employers to pay fifty dollars. 1. Every employer to whom, after the 1st day of October 1855, any Indian immigrant shall be indentured on arrival, shall pay to the Receiver-General the sum of 50 dollars in manner following:—five dollars shall be paid at the execution of the contract, and for the balance five promissory notes shall be given, bearing even date with the said contract, the first of which promissory notes shall be for five dollars, and shall be payable with interest at the rate of six per cent. at the end of one year from the date thereof; and each of the remaining notes shall be for 10 dollars, and one of the same, with the interest due thereon at the same rate, shall be payable at the end of each of the four following years from the same date.

Provision for change of employer. 2. If at the end of the third year of his industrial residence any Indian immigrant who may arrive here after the 1st day of October 1855, shall change his employer, two of the promissory notes given by the original employer of such immigrant shall be deemed to be cancelled; and the employer to whom such immigrant shall then be indentured shall, at the time of the execution of the contract, give two promissory notes for 10 dollars each, one of which shall be payable at the end of one year, and the other at the end of two years from the date thereof, with interest at the rate of six per cent. to be reckoned from the time of the arrival of the immigrant in the colony: and if at the end of the fourth year of the industrial residence of any such immigrant he shall change his employer, the like course shall be pursued with respect to one promissory note given by the preceding employer; and if such promissory notes shall have been given for more than one such immigrant, it shall be lawful for the Receiver-General, at his option, either to write off from the same the amount due on account of the fourth and fifth years, or on account of the fifth year of the services of any such immigrant as may change his employer, or to cancel the promissory notes already given, and to take other promissory notes for any sum due on account of any immigrant who shall not elect to change his employer.

Employers may pay in cash at once. 3. Nothing in this or in any other Ordinance contained shall be construed to prevent any employer from paying at the execution of the contract the whole of the sum for the pay-

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ment of which he shall then become bound, or from paying at any time the whole of any promissory notes which may then be unpaid, with the interest due thereon, before the time herein-before fixed for the payment of the same respectively; and if any immigrant, in respect of whom such payment shall be made in advance, shall be indentured to a different employer for the fourth and fifth years, or for the fifth year of his industrial residence, the Receiver-General shall repay to the original or second employer the amount, with the interest, paid by either of them on account of the fourth and fifth years, or of the fifth year of the service of such immigrant, as the case may be.

Recovery of promissory notes.

4. The promissory notes to be given under this Ordinance shall be entitled to preference, and shall be recovered in manner provided by the Ordinance No. 7, 1854, with respect to the preference and recovery of promissory notes given under the provisions thereof; and all promissory notes given by lessees of estates shall be signed by the original debtor and his surety or sureties, and shall be payable by them jointly and severally; anything in Ordinance No. 7, of the year 1854, to the contrary notwithstanding.

And that no ignorance may be pretended of this our Ordinance, these Presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, this Twenty-second day of June, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and published on the Twenty-third following.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

By command of the Court,
WILLIAM WALKER, Secretary.

APPENDIX No. 3.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Court of Policy.—No. 16, 1855.

An Ordinance for raising a Loan for the Introduction of Indian Immigrants into British Guiana.

(P. E. WODEHOUSE.)

ORDINANCE ENACTED by his Excellency PHILIP EDMUND WODEHOUSE, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c., by and with the Advice and Consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the said Colony.

To all to whom these Presents do, may, or shall come, greeting; be it known:—

Preamble.

WHEREAS at the annual meeting of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the colony of British Guiana, combined with the financial representatives of the inhabitants thereof, it was resolved on the twentieth day of March last past, that the Governor and Court of Policy be requested to pass an Ordinance for raising upon the guarantee of the colonial revenues such sum as might be required for immediate payment for the passage of Indian immigrants: And whereas by an Ordinance passed on the twenty-second day of June last past, it was enacted that payment for the passage of such Indian immigrants should be made by the employers thereof in manner therein described within five years from the time of the allotment of such immigrants: Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, as follows:—

Commissioners appointed.

1. The Government Secretary for the time being, the Receiver-General for the time being, and the Financial Accountant for the time being, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be Commissioners for carrying into effect the purposes of this Ordinance, and shall be called "The Indian Immigration Loan Commissioners."

Commissioners to issue bonds of various amounts not to exceed in the whole 150,000*l.* sterling.

2. The Commissioners, from time to time, upon receiving from the Governor an intimation of any sum of money having been advanced out of the colonial revenues, and having become due in discharge of the passage money of Indian immigrants introduced into this colony after the passing of this Ordinance, may issue bonds, in the form annexed hereto, each of which bonds shall be either for the sum of one hundred pounds sterling, or of two hundred pounds sterling, or of five hundred pounds sterling, or of one thousand pounds sterling, each payable to bearer at the expiration of five years after date, and each bearing interest, payable half yearly and to commence at the end of six months from the date of the bond, at a rate not exceeding six per cent. per annum, in such number as may be sufficient to provide the amount payable for such immigrants: Provided that the total amount of such bonds outstanding at any one time shall not exceed one hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling.

Commissioners to receive for the bonds sums of equal or greater amount, or, with the Governor's sanction, less.

3. The Commissioners may accept, for any bonds to be issued by them, any sums of money equal to or exceeding the sums herein-before mentioned, of one hundred pounds, two hundred pounds, five hundred pounds, and one thousand pounds respectively, or, with the previous sanction of the Governor, of any sums of money less than any such sums.

Sums received by the Commissioners to be deposited in some bank,

4. All sums received by the Commissioners under any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deposited in the name of "The Indian Immigration Loan Commissioners," in some bank in London, or in one of the local banks, in such proportion as may from time to time

be found convenient; and no sum so deposited shall be drawn out of any such bank except upon a bill, cheque, or order, signed by two of the said Commissioners, of whom the Financial Accountant shall always be one.

and not to be drawn out except by order of two Commissioners.

5. The Commissioners, with the approval of the Governor, may appoint an agent or agents in London, or elsewhere in the United Kingdom, for the purpose of disposing of the bonds, for receiving and paying money, and generally for the purposes of this Ordinance; and all acts done by any such agent or agents, in conformity with the terms of his or their appointment, shall be as good and valid to all intents and purposes as if the same had been done by the said Commissioners themselves.

Commissioners may appoint agents in London or elsewhere in United Kingdom. Acts of such agents to be valid.

6. The Commissioners shall pay over to the Receiver-General the amount declared by the Governor as aforesaid to have been advanced or to be payable for the passage of the immigrants then introduced into the colony; and the Receiver-General shall hold the same subject to the warrants of the Governor.

Commissioners to pay to Receiver-General amount due for immigrant's passage-money

7. The Receiver-General shall pay over to the Commissioners all sums of money received or recovered by him under the provisions of the Ordinances, No. 7 of 1854 and No. 8 of 1855, from any Indian immigrant, or from the employers of any Indian immigrants, for whose passage payment shall have been made to him by the Commissioners, according to the preceding section hereof.

Receiver-General to pay to the Commissioners all moneys recovered by him under Ordinances No. 7 of 1854 and 8 of 1855.

8. If at any time the amount paid for the passage of any Indian immigrants shall exceed the amount for which the employers to whom they may be allotted are declared liable under the provisions of the above-mentioned Ordinances, the Receiver-General shall pay out of the public monies to the Commissioners annually, for five years, one-fifth of such excess, and shall likewise pay to the said Commissioners the interest which may become due upon the unpaid balance of the said excess, at such rate as may be payable by the Commissioners on account of the bonds issued by them.

Any excess to be paid out of public moneys in five annual instalments with interest.

9. The Commissioners shall, out of any sums to be received by them under the provisions of the two preceding sections, pay all interest and principal becoming due upon the bonds by them issued; and it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, after making such payments, to apply any balance of such receipts remaining in their hands to the payment of the cost of the passage of any Indian immigrants to be thereafter introduced, or, with the approval of the Governor, to invest any such balance in such manner as to them shall appear most advantageous.

Commissioners to pay interest and principal of bonds issued by them; any balance to be appropriated as directed.

10. All the colonial revenues not specially appropriated by any Ordinance already in force shall during the continuance of this Ordinance be held to be pledged for the payment of the interest and principal becoming due in respect of the bonds issued under the provisions hereof; and if at any time the sums which may be received by the Commissioners from the Receiver-General, under the preceding provisions of this Ordinance, shall be insufficient to meet any payments so becoming due, the said Commissioners shall make report, stating the amount deficient to the Governor, who shall thereupon issue his warrant to the Receiver-General, directing him to pay over to the Commissioners, out of any public monies in his hands, the amount required to make good such deficiency: Provided, that before making such report the Commissioners shall issue bonds as herein-before directed for any such part of the sums previously received by them from the Receiver-General, as may have been applied under the provisions of the 9th section to the payment of the cost of the passage of immigrants; and the Commissioners shall repay to the Receiver-General any sum so paid by him out of the public monies whensoever there shall thereafter be a balance remaining in their hands, after payment of any interest or principal then due upon such bonds as aforesaid.

Guarantee of sums borrowed by the Colonial Revenues not being otherwise pledged.

Mode of proceeding in case of funds provided proving insufficient.

11. In case any bond issued under this Ordinance shall by accident be defaced, it shall be lawful for the Commissioners to cause a new bond to be made and delivered to the bearer, and to cause the defaced bond to be cancelled in their presence, and the bonds so cancelled shall be filed, and the new bond shall bear the same number, date, and principal sum, and carry the same interest and be subject to the same rules, as the original bond.

Defaced bonds may be replaced.

12. The Commissioners, on proof to their satisfaction that any bond issued under this Ordinance has by accident been lost or destroyed before the same shall have been paid off, may, if the number and amount of such bond shall be ascertained, and upon being furnished with due security for indemnifying the colonial revenues for any loss to which they may at any time be subjected by reason thereof, issue a new bond, corresponding in all respects with the bond so lost or destroyed; or, if any bond when so lost or destroyed shall be overdue, may cause the money due thereupon to be paid off and discharged.

Bonds lost or destroyed may be replaced, or paid off if over due.

13. The Financial Accountant shall keep regular accounts of all receipts and disbursements of the Commissioners; and a balance sheet of such accounts shall be by him furnished to the Governor and the Court of Policy as soon as practicable after the close of each season for the introduction of Indian immigrants.

Financial Accountant to keep accounts, and lay balance sheet before Governor and Court of Policy annually.

14. No person shall have any right of action against the "Indian Immigration Loan Commissioners," or any of them, by reason of the non-payment of any interest or principal which shall be due upon any bond by them issued; but any such action shall be brought against the Receiver-General in like manner as any action brought against the said officer for the recovery of any other sum due by or from the colony.

No right of action against Commissioners for non-payment of interest or principal; but action may be brought against Receiver-General.

15. This Ordinance shall commence and take effect upon and from the publication by the Governor of a proclamation declaring that Her Majesty has been pleased to confirm the same.

Ordinance to take effect on proclamation of Queen's confirmation thereof.

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And that no ignorance may be pretended of this our Ordinance, these Presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, this twenty-first day of August, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and published on the twenty-second following.

P. E. WODEHOUSE.

By command of the Court,
WILLIAM WALKER, Secretary.

FORM OF BOND.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. , *Indian Immigration Loan Bond—£* .

SERIES.

Section 1.—"The Government Secretary for the time being, the Receiver-General for the time being, and the Financial Accountant for the time being, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be Commissioners for carrying into effect the purposes of this Ordinance, and shall be called 'The Indian Immigration Loan Commissioners.'"

Section 2.—"The Commissioners, from time to time, upon receiving from the Governor an intimation of any sum of money having been advanced out of the colonial revenues, or having become due in discharge of the passage money of Indian immigrants introduced into this colony after the passing of this Ordinance, may issue bonds, in the form annexed hereto, each of which bonds shall be either for the sum of one hundred pounds sterling, or of two hundred pounds sterling, or of five hundred pounds sterling, or of one thousand pounds sterling, each payable to bearer at the expiration of five years after date, and each bearing interest, payable half-yearly, and to commence from the end of six months from the date of the bond, at a rate not exceeding six per cent. per annum, in such number as may be sufficient to provide the amount payable for such immigrants: Provided, that the total amount of such bonds outstanding at any one time shall not exceed one hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling."—Ordinance 16, 1855.

The Indian Immigration Loan Commissioners, appointed under Ordinance No. 16, of the year 1855, do hereby acknowledge to owe to , or bearer, the sum of , for the payment of which at on the day of 18 , with interest at the rate of six per centum per annum, payable half-yearly, at the same place on the successive days of and next ensuing the date of this bond, on the surrender of the respective interest warrants hereto attached.

For the punctual payment of the interest and capital when due, the colonial revenues of British Guiana are pledged as security under the provisions of Ordinance No. 16, of the year 1855, passed by his Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Court of Policy of the said colony.

Given under our hands
Georgetown, Demerara,
this day of 18 ,

Indian Immigration Loan Commissioners.

COUPONS.

Bond, No. , Interest Warrant, No.

The Indian Immigration Loan Commissioners will pay the bearer on the day of 18 , at , being one half-year's interest on their Bond, No.

Indian Immigration Loan Commissioners.

(Note.—10 coupons to be attached to each Bond.)

APPENDIX No. 4.

BRITISH GUIANA.—COURT OF POLICY.—No. 22, 1856.

An Ordinance to legalize the Payment of Bounty to Indian Immigrants entitled to Back Passages on certain conditions.

(P. E. WODEHOUSE.)

ORDINANCE enacted by his Excellency PHILIP EDMUND WODEHOUSE, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c., &c., &c., by and with the advice and consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of said colony.

To whom all these presents do, may, or shall come, greeting; be it known:—

Preamble. WHEREAS under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 7, of 1854, immigrants from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies and from the possessions of the East India Company are entitled, after obtaining certificates of industrial residence, to be provided with passages back to their own country at times and upon conditions therein stated; and it is expedient to enable any such immigrants as may be willing so to do, to postpone their claim to such passages and to enter into indentures for the performance of a further term of service: Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, as follows:—

Indian immigrant entitled to back passage may, if he think fit, enter into new contract for a further term of service. 1. Every Indian immigrant who may be entitled under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 7, of 1854, to be provided with a passage back to his own country, may, if he shall think fit so to do, enter into a contract or indenture for further service for a period corresponding with that for which such immigrant was bound on his first arrival in the colony; and every such new contract or indenture shall be drawn in the form prescribed, and shall be in all respects subject to the provisions of the said Ordinance No. 7, of 1854.

Immigrant entering into new contract, certificate of industrial residence to be postponed, or if already issued, withdrawn. 2. In the case of any immigrant who shall have arrived in this colony before the month of December 1853, and who shall enter into a new contract or indenture under the provisions of the preceding section, the issue of the certificate of industrial residence to which he may have become entitled shall be postponed until the completion of the said new contract or indenture; and if any such certificate shall have been already issued to any such immigrant, it shall at the time of his entering into such new contract or indenture be withdrawn and cancelled by the Immigration Agent-General.

Amount of bounty to be paid to immigrants entering into new contracts. 3. The Governor may pay to every adult and able-bodied immigrant entering into a contract or indenture under the provisions of the first section hereof the sum of fifty dollars, and to every immigrant entering into such contract or indenture, who may be certified by the Immigration Agent-General to be other than an able-bodied adult, the sum of twenty-five dollars.

Amounts to be paid by employers of such immigrants to Receiver-General, and how payments to be made. 4. Every employer with whom any such Indian immigrant shall enter into a new contract or indenture as aforesaid, shall pay to the Receiver-General the sums herein-after specified, that is to say, for each able-bodied male or female adult the sum of fifty dollars, and for each immigrant other than an able-bodied adult the sum of twenty-five dollars, according as the same may be determined by the Immigration Agent-General, and such sum shall be paid in the manner following:—One-tenth shall be paid at the execution of the contract or indenture, and for the balance five promissory notes shall be given, bearing even date with the said contract or indenture, the first of which promissory notes shall be for one-tenth, and shall be payable with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, at the end of one year from the date thereof; and each of the remaining notes shall be for one-fifth, and one of the same, with the interest due thereon at the same rate, shall be payable at the end of each of the four following years from the same date.

Provision for immigrant changing employer or paying in commutation of service. 5. If at the end of the third year from the date of the contract or indenture entered into by him under the provisions of this Ordinance, any Indian immigrant shall change his employer or shall pay the sum of five pounds to the Immigration Agent-General, two of the promissory notes given by the original employer shall be cancelled; and the employer, if any, to whom such immigrant shall then be indentured shall, at the time of the execution of the contract or indenture, give two promissory notes of equal amount to those cancelled, one of which shall be payable at the end of one year, and the other at the end of two years from the date thereof, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum from the date of the promissory notes cancelled as aforesaid; and if at the end of the fourth year from the last-mentioned date such immigrant shall change his employer or shall pay the sum of two pounds and ten shillings to the Immigration Agent-General, the like course shall be pursued with respect to one promissory note given by the last employer of such immigrant; and if such promissory notes shall have been given for more than one such immigrant, the Receiver-General may, at his option, either write off from the same the amount due on account of the fourth and fifth years, or on account of the fifth year of the services of any such immigrant who may change his employer or pay a sum of money as aforesaid, or may cancel the promissory notes already given, and take other promissory notes for any sum due on account of any immigrant who shall not elect to change his employer or to pay a sum of money as aforesaid.

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Employers may pay in cash at once.

6. Nothing in this or in other Ordinance contained shall be construed to prevent any employer from paying at the execution of the contract or indenture the whole of the sum for the payment of which he shall then become bound, or from paying at any time the whole of any promissory notes which shall be then unpaid, with the interest due thereon, before the time herein-before fixed for the payment of the same respectively; and if any immigrant in respect of whom such payment shall be made in advance, shall be indentured to a different employer for the fourth and fifth years, or for the fifth year of the term for which he shall have agreed to serve under the provisions of this Ordinance, or shall pay the sum of five pounds or of two pounds and ten shillings, as the case may be, to the Immigration Agent-General, the Receiver-General shall repay the proper proportion of the amount advanced, with the interest, to the person who may have paid the same.

Recovery of promissory notes given under this Ordinance.

7. The promissory notes to be given under this Ordinance shall be entitled to preference and shall be recovered in manner provided by the Ordinance No. 7, of 1854, with respect to the preference and recovery of promissory notes given under the provisions thereof, and all promissory notes given by lessees of estates shall be signed by the original debtor and his surety or sureties, and shall be payable by them jointly and severally, anything in Ordinance No. 7 of 1854 to the contrary notwithstanding.

What not necessary to be proved in proceedings for recovery of promissory notes given by employers.

8. In any proceedings for the recovery of sums due upon promissory notes given by employers of immigrants under any Ordinance now or hereafter to be in force, it shall not be necessary to prove that the person who made application for such immigrants, or who signed the promissory notes for the same, was the lawful proprietor or lessee, or attorney or representative of such proprietor or lessee, or was the manager or person in lawful charge of the estate upon which the Receiver-General may claim to hold a preferent lien in respect to the allotment of such immigrants, provided it be proved that the immigrants were allotted to such estate.

Provisions of this Ordinance to extend to contracts already entered into and payments made, and promissory notes given in respect thereof.

9. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be taken to extend to any contracts or indentures already entered into, any payments already made, and any promissory notes already given by, to, or in respect of any Indian immigrants who may have been introduced into this colony before the month of December 1853, and who may during this present year have entered into a contract or indenture for service for the period of five years.

When Ordinance to take effect.

10. This Ordinance shall commence and take effect upon and from the publication thereof.

And that no ignorance may be pretended of this our Ordinance, these presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, this fifteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and published on the sixth September following.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

By command of the Court,

(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY, Acting Secretary.

APPENDIX No. 5.

BRITISH GUIANA.—COURT OF POLICY.—No. 23, 1856.

An Ordinance for raising a Loan for Payment of Bounty to Indian Immigrants.

(P. E. WODEHOUSE.)

ORDINANCE ENACTED by His Excellency PHILIP EDMUND WODEHOUSE, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c., by and with the advice and consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of said Colony.

To all to whom these Presents do, may, or shall come, greeting; be it known:—

Preamble.

WHEREAS at the annual meeting of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, combined with the financial representatives of the inhabitants thereof, it was resolved on the Fifteenth day of May last past, that the Governor and Court of Policy be requested to pass an Ordinance for raising upon the guarantee of the colonial revenues such sum as might be required for immediate payment of bounty to such Indian immigrants as might be entitled to passages back to India, and might be willing to receive such bounty on condition of entering into indentures for a term of five years: And whereas by Ordinance No. 22, of 1856, it was enacted that payment of such bounty should be made by the employers thereof in manner therein described within five years from the time of the signing of such indentures: Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, as follows:—

Bounty Loan Commissioners appointed.

1. The Government Secretary, the two senior Elective Members of the Court of Policy, the Colonial Receiver-General, and the Financial Accountant for the time being, respectively, shall be and they are hereby declared to be Commissioners for carrying into effect the purposes of this Ordinance; and three of such Commissioners shall form a quorum for the dispatch of business, subject to the provisions herein-after contained.

2. The Commissioners from time to time, upon receiving from the Governor an intimation of any sum of money having been advanced out of the colonial revenues, or having become due under the Ordinance No. 22, of 1856, after the taking effect of this Ordinance, may issue bonds in such number as may be sufficient to provide the amount so advanced or payable, and in the form annexed hereto, each of which bonds shall be either for the sum of one hundred pounds sterling, or of two hundred pounds sterling, or of five hundred pounds sterling, or of one thousand pounds sterling, payable to bearer at the expiration of five years after date, and bearing interest at a rate not exceeding six per cent. per annum, to be paid half-yearly: Provided that the total amount of such bonds outstanding at any one time shall not exceed fifty thousand pounds sterling.

Commissioners to issue bonds of various amounts, not to exceed in the whole 50,000*l.* sterling.

3. The Commissioners may accept for any bonds to be issued by them, any sums of money equal to or exceeding the sums mentioned in the said bonds respectively, or, with the previous sanction of the Governor, any sums of money less than any such sums.

Commissioners to receive for the bonds sums of equal or greater amount, or with the Governor's sanction, less.

4. All sums received by the Commissioners under any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deposited in the name of "The Bounty Loan Commissioners," in such bank or banks as may from time to time be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy, in such proportion as may from time to time be found convenient; and no sum so deposited shall be drawn out of any such bank except upon a bill, cheque, or order, signed by three of the said Commissioners, of whom the Financial Accountant shall always be one.

Sums received by the Commissioners to be deposited in some bank, and not to be drawn out except by order of three Commissioners.

5. The Governor may, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy, from time to time, appoint an agent or agents in London, or elsewhere in the United Kingdom, for the purpose of disposing of the bonds, for receiving and paying money, and generally for all the purposes of this Ordinance; and all acts done by any such agent or agents, in conformity with the terms of his or their appointment, shall be as good and valid to all intents and purposes as if the same had been done by the Commissioners.

Governor, with advice of Court of Policy, may appoint agents in the United Kingdom.

6. The Commissioners shall pay over to the Receiver-General the amount declared by the Governor as aforesaid to have been advanced or to be payable for bounty; and the Receiver-General shall hold the same subject to the warrants of the Governor.

Commissioners to pay over to Receiver-General amount due for bounty.

7. The Receiver-General shall credit the Commissioners with all sums of money received or recovered by him under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 22, of 1856, from any Indian immigrant or from the employers of any Indian immigrant, on account of whom payments shall have been made to him by the Commissioners, according to the preceding section hereof, and no sum so credited shall be paid out by the Receiver-General, except upon an order signed by three of the said Commissioners, of whom the Financial Accountant shall always be one.

Receiver-General to credit Commissioners with all sums received or recovered by him under Ordinance No. 22 of 1856.

8. The Commissioners shall, out of the sums to be received under the provisions of the preceding section, pay all interest and principal becoming due upon the bonds by them issued; and it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, after making such payments, with the approval of the Governor, to invest any balance remaining to their credit in the hands of the Receiver-General in such manner as to them shall appear most advantageous.

Commissioners to pay principal and interest of bonds, and any balance may be invested with approval of Governor.

9. All the colonial revenues not specially appropriated by any Ordinance already in force, shall, during the continuance of this Ordinance, be held to be pledged for the payment of the interest and principal becoming due in respect of the bonds issued under the provisions hereof; and if at any time the sums which may be credited to the Commissioners by the Receiver-General, under the preceding provisions of this Ordinance, shall be insufficient to meet any payments so becoming due, the said Commissioners shall report the amount deficient to the Governor, who shall thereupon issue his warrant to the Receiver-General directing him to credit the Commissioners from any public monies in his hands with the amount required to make good such deficiency: And the Commissioners shall repay to the Receiver-General any sum so paid by him out of the public monies whensoever there shall thereafter be a balance remaining in their hands, after payment of any interest or principal then due upon such bonds as aforesaid.

Guarantee of Colonial Revenues not otherwise pledged, for payment of principal and interest of Bonds.

10. In case any bond issued under this Ordinance shall by accident be defaced, it shall be lawful for the Commissioners to cause a new bond to be made and delivered to the bearer, and to cause the defaced bond to be cancelled in their presence, and the bonds so cancelled shall be filed, and the new bond shall bear the same number, date, and principal sum, and carry the same interest and be subject to the same rules as the original bond.

Defaced bonds may be replaced.

11. The Commissioners, on proof to their satisfaction that any bond issued under this Ordinance has by accident been lost or destroyed before the same shall have been paid off, may, if the number and amount of such bond shall be ascertained, and upon being furnished with due security for indemnifying the colonial revenues for any loss to which they may at any time be subjected by reason thereof, issue a new bond corresponding in all respects with the bond so lost or destroyed; or if any bond when so lost or destroyed shall be overdue, may cause the money due thereupon to be paid off and discharged.

Bonds lost or destroyed may be replaced, or paid off if over due.

12. The Financial Accountant shall keep regular accounts of all the receipts and disbursements of the Commissioners, and a balance sheet of such accounts shall be by him furnished to the Governor and to the Court of Policy as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year.

Financial Accountant to keep accounts, and lay balance sheet before Governor and Court of Policy.

13. No person shall have any right of action against the "Bounty Loan Commissioners," or any of them, by reason of the non-payment of any interest or principal which shall be due upon any bond by them issued; but any such action shall be brought against the

No right of action against Commissioners for non-payment of bonds, but action may

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Receiver-General in like manner as any action brought against the said officer for the recovery of any other sum due by or from the colony.

be brought against Receiver-General.

14. This Ordinance shall commence and take effect upon and from the publication hereof.

When Ordinance to take effect.

And that no ignorance may be pretended of this our Ordinance, these Presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, this Eighteenth day of August, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and published on the Sixth September following.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

By command of the Court,
W. B. WOLSELEY, Acting Secretary.

APPENDIX No. 6.

BRITISH GUIANA.—COURT OF POLICY.—No. 25, 1856.

An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance No. 7 of 1854.

(P. E. WODEHOUSE.)

ORDINANCE ENACTED by his Excellency PHILIP EDMUND WODEHOUSE, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c., by and with the advice and consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of said colony.

To all to whom these Presents do, may, or shall come, greeting; be it known:—

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend in certain respects the Ordinance, No. 7, of 1854: Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, as follows:—

Sections 16, 19, 53, and 61 of Ordinance 7 of 1854 repealed.

1. The 16, 19th, 53rd, and 61st sections of the Ordinance No. 7, of 1854, shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

Term of indenture with Portuguese, and with Coolies, Chinese, and liberated Africans of the first class.

2. Every immigrant from the island of Madeira, from any of the islands of the Azores or the Cape de Verde or Canary islands, or from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, or from any part of the African continent from which immigration shall be permitted by Her Majesty's Government, and every Chinese immigrant and every liberated African of the first class shall be indentured in the form annexed to the Ordinance No. 7, of 1854, marked B, for a period of three years from the date of his arrival; and every immigrant other than one from the African continent, or a liberated African, shall, at the end of the said three years, enter into a second indenture either with the same or with some other employer for a further term of two years, or shall pay in commutation thereof the sum herein-after enacted; but every such immigrant entering into such second indenture shall be entitled, at the expiration of one year's service, to enter into indenture for the remaining year with some other employer, or to pay in commutation of service for such year the sum herein-after enacted.

Immigration Agent-General to visit estates half-yearly for the purpose of re-indenturing such immigrants as desire to be re-indentured.

3. The Immigration Agent-General shall upon some one day, to be by him fixed, between the 1st day of January and the 30th day of June, and upon some one day, to be by him fixed, between the 1st day of July and the 31st day of December in each year, or within seven days after any day so fixed, visit every estate or plantation upon which there may be any immigrants under indenture; and the Immigration Agent-General shall give at least one month's notice of such day to the manager of such estate or plantation, and shall require such manager then to produce before him every immigrant whose indenture would expire within the term of six months from the date of such visit; and such manager shall, on the receipt of such notice, forthwith give information of the same to all the immigrants under indenture upon the said estate or plantation for three successive days at the time of calling the muster-roll; and every immigrant whose indenture would expire within the time above mentioned may then declare to the Immigration Agent-General whether he desires to be re-indentured to the same or to some other employer, upon the terms herein-before mentioned, according as the same may be applicable to him, or whether he will pay to the said Immigration Agent-General, in commutation of such re-indenture, the sum of money herein-after appointed; and if such immigrant shall elect to be re-indentured either to the same or to some other party, such new indenture shall take effect from the day next after the termination of the previous indenture.

Immigrants may pay a sum of money in commutation of service under indenture.

4. Every immigrant from the island of Madeira, from any of the islands of the Azores, or the Cape de Verde or Canary islands, who shall elect to pay a sum of money in commutation of service under indenture, shall pay, in commutation of two years' service two fifths, and in commutation of one year's service one-fifth of the amount paid as bounty for

his introduction into the colony; and every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, and every Chinese immigrant who shall elect to make such payment shall pay in commutation of two years' service the sum of five pounds, and in commutation of one year's service two pounds and ten shillings; and if any such immigrant shall fail at the time appointed to declare his wish to be indentured to another employer, or to be allowed to pay a sum of money in commutation of service as aforesaid, or shall fail to pay such sum of money to the stipendiary magistrate of the district, or to the Immigration Agent-General, at least ten days before the expiration of the indenture under which he may be then serving, such indenture shall thereupon be deemed to be renewed in like manner as if he had applied to be re-indentured.

Penalty on manager failing to inform immigrants of day fixed by Immigration Agent-General for visiting estate.

5. Every manager or person in charge of any estate or plantation who shall fail to give information to the immigrants employed thereon of the day fixed by the Immigration Agent-General for visiting the same in manner herein-before provided, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding twenty-four dollars; and the Governor may, if to him it shall appear proper, upon the application of any immigrant, authorize the transfer of such immigrant at the expiration of his indenture to some other employer, or the acceptance at the same time from him of the sum herein-before required to be paid in commutation of service, notwithstanding that such immigrant shall not have declared to the Immigration Agent-General at the time herein-before appointed his wish to change his employer or to pay such money.

Right to back passage of Coolie immigrants.

6. Whereas the Governor-General of India in Council has given his assent to the emigration to this colony of natives of the possessions of the East India Company, under engagements to render industrial service for a period of ten years, in consideration whereof they are to be provided with a passage back to their own country at the expense of the colony; and whereas Her Majesty's Government deem it expedient to provide for the reduction upon certain conditions of the said period of industrial service, every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, who shall have arrived or who may arrive in this colony at any time during or after the month of December 1853, and who shall have acquired a certificate of industrial residence in manner provided by the 38th section of Ordinance No. 7 of 1854, shall be entitled, at the expiration of ten years from the time of such arrival, and upon payment to the Immigration Agent-General of the sum of thirty-five dollars, to be provided with a back passage to the port from which he sailed at the expense of the said colony: Provided, that every such immigrant shall be relieved from all liability to payment for the said back passage, on condition of his entering annually into indentures of service for each of the last five years of the period of his engagement, or of paying to the Immigration Agent-General the sum of two pounds and ten shillings, or twelve dollars, for each such year; and if any such immigrant shall, on claiming such back passage, prove that he has been serving under indentures or annual or longer contracts for the first ten years of his residence in this colony, or that he has paid the sum of two pounds and ten shillings, or twelve dollars, for each of the last five of the said years in which he may not have so served, he shall not be required to make any such payment; and every indenture or contract which may be made under the provisions of this section, shall be made in manner provided by the 20th section of Ordinance No. 7 of 1854, and every employer with whom any such immigrant shall enter into such indenture or contract during the last five years as aforesaid, shall, at the time of the execution of the same, in addition to the fee by the said section imposed for the preparation thereof, pay to the Immigration Agent-General a sum calculated at the rate of seven dollars per annum for the period stated in such indenture or contract.

Coolie immigrants entitled to back passage if detained to receive 6 dollars for every six months of such detention.

7. Every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies or from the possessions of the East India Company who shall become entitled under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 7 of 1854, or of this Ordinance, to a passage back to the port from which he sailed, and who after having claimed the same shall be for any reason detained against his will in this colony, shall be entitled to demand and receive from the Receiver-General the sum of six dollars for every six months of such detention.

Adjudication of complaints between employer and immigrant.

8. All complaints, differences, and disputes which shall arise between any employer and any immigrant respecting any matter or thing treated of in Ordinance No. 7, of the year 1854, or in this Ordinance, shall and may be heard and determined by any stipendiary or special justice of the peace under the provisions of Ordinance No. 19, of the year 1856.

And that no ignorance may be pretended of this our Ordinance, these presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, City of Georgetown, Demerara, this 3rd day of September, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and published on the 6th following.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

By command of the Court,

W. B. WOLSELEY, Acting Secretary.

APPENDIX No. 7.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Court of Policy.—No. 26, 1856.

An Ordinance to regulate the Payments of Contract Duty to be made by the Employers of Immigrant Labourers from Madeira, the Azores, and the Cape de Verde or Canary Islands.

(P. E. WODEHOUSE.)

Ordinance enacted by his Excellency Philip Edmund Wodehouse, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c., &c., &c., by and with the advice and consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of said colony.

To all whom these presents do, may, or shall come, greeting; be it known:—

Preamble.

Whereas by the Ordinance No. 7, of the year 1854, it was enacted, that every employer to whom any immigrant might be allotted should pay to the Receiver-General a certain part of the bounty or passage money which might be due, or which might have been paid in respect of such immigrant, in manner therein set forth: And whereas it is necessary to make other provision in some respects with regard to such payments by employers: Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, as follows:—

Employers of immigrants from Madeira, the Azores, or the Cape de Verde or Canary Islands, to pay full amount of bounty to Receiver-General in manner specified.

1. Every employer to whom, after the thirty-first day of August 1856, any immigrant from Madeira, the Azores, or the Cape de Verde or Canary islands, shall be indentured on arrival for the term of three years, shall pay to the Receiver-General the sum which, under any proclamation at the time in force, shall be payable as bounty for the introduction of such immigrant, in manner following:—One-sixth thereof shall be paid at the execution of the contract, and for the balance three promissory notes shall be given, bearing even date with the said contract, the first of which promissory notes shall be for one other sixth thereof, and shall be payable, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, at the end of one year from the date thereof; and each of the remaining notes shall be for one-third thereof, and one of the same, with the interest due thereon at the same rate, shall be payable at the end of each of the two following years from the same date.

Provision for immigrant changing his employer.

2. If at the end of the third year from the date of the contract or indenture entered into by any immigrant from Madeira, the Azores, or the Cape de Verde or Canary islands, any such immigrant shall change his employer, such second employer shall pay to the Immigration Agent-General one-half of the sum which shall have been paid as bounty for the introduction of such immigrant, together with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum upon such one-half for the term of three years; and if at the end of the fourth year from his original contract or indenture any such immigrant shall change his employer, such new employer shall pay to the Immigration Agent-General one-quarter of the sum which shall have been paid as bounty for the introduction of such immigrant, together with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum upon such one-quarter for the term of four years.

Employers may pay cash at once.

3. Nothing in this or in any other Ordinance contained shall be construed to prevent any employer from paying at the execution of the contract the whole of the sum for the payment of which he shall then become bound, or from paying at any time the whole of any promissory notes which may then be unpaid, with the interest due thereon, before the time herein-before fixed for the payment of the same respectively.

Sums received by Immigration Agent-General under this Ordinance how to be paid over.

4. All sums which shall be received by the Immigration Agent-General under the provisions of the preceding sections, or which shall be received in commutation of service under indenture from any immigrant from Madeira, the Azores, or the Cape de Verde or Canary islands, shall be paid by him to the party or parties by whom the bounty for the introduction of such immigrant shall have been previously paid in the proper proportion.

Recovery of promissory notes given under this Ordinance.

5. The promissory notes to be given under this Ordinance shall be entitled to the preference and shall be recovered in the manner provided by the Ordinance No. 7, of the year 1854, with respect to the preference and recovery of promissory notes given under the provisions thereof; and all promissory notes given by lessees of estates shall be signed by the original debtor and his surety or sureties, and shall be payable by them jointly and severally; anything in Ordinance No. 7, of the year 1854, to the contrary notwithstanding.

When Ordinance to take effect.

6. This Ordinance shall come into operation and take effect on the publication thereof.

And that no ignorance may be pretended of this our Ordinance, these presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, city of Georgetown, Demerara, this fourth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and published on the sixth following.

(Signed) P. E. Wodehouse.

By command of the Court,

(Signed) W. B. Wolseley, Acting Secretary.

FORM OF BOND.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. *Bounty Loan Bond £*

SERIES.

Section 1.—"The Government Secretary, the two senior Elective Members of the Court of Policy, the colonial Receiver-General, and the Financial Accountant for the time being, respectively, shall be and they are hereby declared to be Commissioners for carrying into effect the purposes of this Ordinance; and three of such Commissioners shall form a quorum for the despatch of business, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained."

Section 2.—"The Commissioners, from time to time, upon receiving from the Governor an intimation of any sum of money having been advanced out of the colonial revenues, or having become due under the Ordinance No. 22, of 1856, after the taking effect of this Ordinance, may issue bonds in such number as may be sufficient to provide the amount so advanced or payable and in the form annexed hereto, each of which bonds shall be either for the sum of One hundred pounds sterling, or Two hundred pounds sterling, or of Five hundred pounds sterling, or of One thousand pounds sterling, payable to bearer at the expiration of five years after date, and bearing interest at a rate not exceeding six per cent. per annum, to be paid half-yearly: Provided that the total amount of such bonds outstanding at any one time shall not exceed Fifty thousand pounds sterling."

The Bounty Loan Commissioners, appointed under Ordinance No. 23, of the year 1856, do hereby acknowledge to owe to or bearer, the sum of , for the payment of which at on the day of 18 , with interest at the rate of per centum per annum, payable half-yearly, at the same place, on the successive days of and next ensuing the date of this bond, on the surrender of the respective interest warrants hereto attached, the colonial revenues of British Guiana are pledged as security under the provisions of Ordinance No. 23, of the year 1856, passed by His Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Court of Policy of said colony.

Given under our hands
Georgetown, Demerara,
this day of 18

Bounty Loan Commissioners.

COUPONS.

Bond No. , Interest Warrant No.

The Bounty Loan Commissioners will pay the bearer on the day of 18 , at being one-half-year's interest on their Bond No.

Bounty Loan Commissioners.

(Note.—Ten coupons to be attached to each bond.)

BRITISH GUIANA.

APPENDIX No. 8.

Preamble.

BRITISH GUIANA.—COURT OF POLICY.—No. 1, 1857.

An Ordinance to regulate Indian Immigration during the Seasons of 1856–7 *and* 1857–8, *and the Payment of Bounty.*

(P. E. WODEHOUSE.)

ORDINANCE ENACTED by his Excellency PHILIP EDMUND WODEHOUSE, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c., by and with the advice and consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of said colony.

To all to whom these presents do, may, or shall come, greeting; be it known:—

WHEREAS at a special meeting of the Honourable Court of Policy of the colony of British Guiana, combined with the financial representatives of the inhabitants thereof, it was on the third day of December last past, amongst other things, resolved—

"2nd. That this Court adheres to the determination come to by the Combined Court of "1855, that the cost of the passage hither of Indian immigrants, at an assumed "rate of 50 dollars per adult, shall be paid by the employers to whom they "may be indentured.

"3rd. That considering that Her Majesty's Government have declined to guarantee "any loan for the further introduction of immigrants, and for other reasons, "it will be for the benefit of the colony that the amount be paid in cash in "the seasons 1856–7 and 1857–8; but that instead of the payment for each "Coolie immigrant being computed at the rate of 10 dollars per annum, the "services for the last two years shall be considered equivalent to the services "for the first three, and that if the immigrant shall be re-indentured to a new "employer, such new employer shall repay the first employer the sum of 25 "dollars with interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum from the date of "the original indenture.

"4th. That looking to the benefit derived by the colony from the postponement of "back passages, this Court is of opinion that employers should be allowed to "pay in cash one-half only of the bounty at the time of indenture, and to give "promissory notes, payable in three years after date, for the remainder.

"5th. That the Governor be authorized, if he shall see fit, in the event of the Bounty "Loan Commissioners being unable to raise funds sufficient for the payment "of one-half, to advance the same out of the colonial revenues.

"6th. That the Governor be requested to ascertain from the proprietors of estates what "number of Coolies they may be desirous of obtaining from India in the "season of 1857–8, and to what number of Coolies they will be prepared to "pay bounty in 1857, on the terms above mentioned, and to intimate that "their answers will be rendered legally binding upon them to the extent of "such number as may be allotted to them in consequence of such applications."

Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor of British Guinea, with the advice and consent of the Coort of Policy thereof, as follows:—

Employers to whom Indian immigrants allotted between 1st Jan. 1857 and 1st Oct. 1858, to pay to Receiver-General 50 dols. for each such immigrant.

1. The Governor may allot to any employer such number of Indian immigrants who have arrived since the 1st January 1857, or who may arrive in this Colony at any time between the taking effect hereof and the 1st day of October 1858, as such employer may have consented to take or may have applied for previously to such allotment; and such employer shall thereupon be bound to pay the sum of fifty dollars for each such immigrant to the Receiver-General, and after such payment shall have been made the indenture in respect of such immigrant shall be duly executed according to law.

In default of payment Receiver-General to recover the amount by parate execution, and to hold a preferent lien for the same on employer's property.

2. In case such employer shall neglect or refuse to make such payment, the Receiver-General on the behalf of the colony shall recover the same with interest by parate execution, and shall have and hold for such sum, and all interest to accrue due thereon, a preferent lien on the whole property of such employer, over and above all liens and mortgages legal and conventional, except liens and preferent rights of the Crown, and such as are allowed or created by any Ordinance or enactment.

Proof in proceedings by Receiver-General against employer.

3. An account of the amount due by any employer under the provisions of the preceding sections hereof, signed by the Immigration Agent-General, countersigned by the Receiver-General, and approved by the Governor, together with the application in writing for or on behalf of such employer, shall, without proof of any of such signatures, and without proof of any other matter or thing, be held and deemed to be, in all courts and by all judges and magistrates, sufficient evidence of such account being in every particular correct.

Provision for Indian immigrant under this Ordinance changing his employer or paying in commutation of service.

4. If at the end of the third year of his industrial residence any Indian immigrant under the provisions of this Ordinance shall change his employer, the employer to whom such immigrant shall then be indentured shall, at the execution of the new contract, pay to the Receiver-General the sum of twenty-five dollars with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum from the date of the first indenture of such immigrant; and if at the end of the fourth year of his industrial residence any such immigrant shall change his employer, the employer to whom he shall then be indentured shall pay to the Receiver-General the sum of twelve dollars and fifty cents with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum from

the date of the first indenture of such immigrant; and all sums so paid by the second or third employer to the Receiver-General shall be by him paid to the employer to whom such immigrant shall have been last indentured; and if during the fourth and fifth year, or both, from the time of his arrival, any such Indian immigrant shall elect to pay to the Immigration Agent-General the sum of two pounds and ten shillings for each such year instead of being indentured, he shall pay for the fourth and fifth years the sum of five pounds, and if the payment be for the fifth year only the sum of two pounds and ten shillings, and the money so paid shall be disposed of in the manner herein provided with respect to the sums paid by the second or third employers of such immigrants.

Employers of Indian immigrants indentured under Ordinance No. 22 of 1856, to pay on execution of the contract one half the bounty, and to give a promissory note, payable in three years, for the balance.

5. Every employer to whom any Indian immigrant shall be indentured under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 22 of 1856, shall, at the execution of the contract, pay to the Receiver-General one-half of the sum payable as bounty to such immigrant, and shall give one promissory note, bearing even date with the said contract, for the other half of such bounty, payable, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, at the end of three years from the date thereof.

Provision for Indian immigrant referred to in preceding section changing his employer or paying in commutation of service.

6. If at the end of the third year from the date of any contract or indenture referred to in the preceding section any such Indian immigrant shall change his employer, the promissory note given by the original employer shall be cancelled, and the employer to whom such immigrant shall then be indentured shall at the execution of the new contract pay to the Receiver-General a sum equal to the amount of the promissory note so cancelled with the interest due thereupon; and if at the end of the fourth year from the date of the original contract any such Indian immigrant shall change his employer, the employer to whom he shall then be indentured shall, at the execution of the new contract, pay to the Receiver-General one-fourth of the amount paid as bounty to such immigrant, with interest thereupon at the rate of six per cent. per annum from the date of his original contract; and all sums received by the Receiver-General from the last-mentioned employer shall be by him paid to the next previous employer of such immigrant; and if any such Indian immigrant shall elect, instead of being indentured for the fourth or fifth year, or both, of the term for which he shall have received bounty, to pay to the Immigration Agent-General the sum of two pounds and ten shillings for each such year he shall pay for the fourth and fifth years the sum of five pounds, and if the payment be for the fifth year only the sum of two pounds and ten shillings, and the promissory note given under the preceding section, if not already discharged, shall be cancelled, and the sum or sums paid by such immigrant shall be applied as herein provided with respect to the sums paid by the second and third employers of such immigrant.

Employers may pay in cash at once, or anticipate the payment of any promissory note.

7. Nothing in this or in any Ordinance contained shall be held or taken to prevent any employer from paying at the execution of the contract the whole of the sum payable as bounty to any Indian immigrant, or from paying at any time thereafter any promissory note which shall be then unpaid, with the interest due thereon; and if any such immigrant in respect of whom such payment shall be made in advance, shall, at the end of the third year, change his employer or pay to the Immigration Agent-General the sum of five pounds, then any sum paid by the new employer of such immigrant, or by himself, shall be paid by the Receiver-General to the person by whom such payment in advance shall have been made as aforesaid.

Preference and recovery of promissory notes under this Ordinance.

8. The promissory notes to be given under this Ordinance shall be entitled to the same preference, and shall be recovered in the manner provided by the Ordinance No. 7 of 1854, with respect to the preference and the recovery of promissory notes given under the provisions thereof; and all promissory notes given by lessees of estates shall be signed by the original debtor and his surety or sureties, and shall be payable by them jointly and severally, anything in Ordinance No. 7 of 1854 to the contrary notwithstanding.

What not necessary to be proved in proceeding for sums due by employers under this Ordinance.

9. In any proceedings for the recovery of sums due by employers who shall have applied for immigrants under the provisions of this Ordinance, it shall not be necessary to prove that the person who made application for such immigrants was the lawful proprietor or lessee, or attorney or representative of the proprietor or lessee, of the estate in respect to which such application shall have been made.

Immigration Agent-General may receive monies under this Ordinance for and on behalf of Receiver-General.

10. All sums by this Ordinance directed to be paid by any employer to the Receiver-General may be lawfully paid to and received by the Immigration Agent-General for and on behalf of such Receiver-General, and the Immigration Agent-General shall thereupon duly account to the Receiver-General for all sums so received by him under the provisions hereof.

Receiver-General to credit Bounty Loan Commissioners with sums received by him under this Ordinance.

11. The Receiver-General shall credit the Bounty Loan Commissioners with all sums received by him under the provisions of this Ordinance, unless where it is herein otherwise provided; and all sums so credited shall be disposed of in manner provided by the Ordinance No. 23 of 1856.

Ordinance No. 8 of 1855, not to apply to Indian immigrants under this Ordinance.

12. The provisions of Ordinance No. 8 of 1855, shall not be held or taken to apply to any Indian immigrants who have arrived since the 1st January 1857, or who may arrive in this Colony at any time between the taking effect hereof and the 1st day of October 1858, and sections 4 and 5 of Ordinance No. 22 of 1856, shall be and the same are hereby repealed, save and except as to any liabilities already incurred thereunder, and the right of proceeding for and recovering the same.

When Ordinance to take effect.

13. This Ordinance shall commence and take effect upon and from the publication thereof.

BRITISH GUIANA.

And that no ignorance may be pretended of this our Ordinance, these presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, this Twelfth day of January One thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and published on the same day.

P. E. WODEHOUSE.

By Command of the Court,
W. B. WOLSELEY, Acting Secretary.

APPENDIX No. 9.

BRITISH GUIANA.—COURT OF POLICY.—No. 7, 1857.

An Ordinance to regulate the Industrial Residence and the Back Passages of certain Indian Immigrants introduced by the Ship "Blue Jacket."

(P. E. WODEHOUSE.)

ORDINANCE ENACTED by his Excellency PHILIP EDMUND WODEHOUSE, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c., by and with the advice and consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of said Colony.

To all to whom these presents do, may, or shall come, greeting; be it known:—

Preamble.

WHEREAS it has been established to the satisfaction of the Governor and Court of Policy that a promise was made by the emigration agent at Madras to the Indian immigrants who were introduced into this colony by the ship "Blue Jacket," in the month of February last, that they should be provided with a passage back to India at the expiration of an industrial residence of five years: Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, as follows:—

Immigrants by ship "Blue Jacket" to be entitled to the same back passages as if introduced before Dec. 1853.

1. The Indian immigrants introduced into this colony by the ship "Blue Jacket" in the month of February last, shall be entitled to such and the same privileges in respect to the period of their industrial residence, and in respect to their right to a passage back to India, as they would have been entitled to if they had been introduced before the month of December in the year 1853, anything in any existing law or ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding.

When Ordinance to take effect.

2. This Ordinance shall come into operation and take effect on the publication thereof.

And that no ignorance may be pretended of this our Ordinance, these presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, this twenty-ninth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and published on the first day of July following.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

By command of the Court,
(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY, Acting Secretary.

APPENDIX No. 10.

BRITISH GUIANA.—COURT OF POLICY.—No. 10, 1857.

An Ordinance to appropriate the Sum of Thirty-five Thousand Dollars to the Introduction, free of Indentures, of Immigrants from Madeira, the Azores, and Canary Islands.

(P. E. WODEHOUSE.)

ORDINANCE ENACTED by his Excellency PHILIP EDMUND WODEHOUSE, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c., by and with the advice and consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of said Colony.

To all to whom these presents do, may, or shall come, greeting; be it known:—

Preamble.

WHEREAS at the Annual Meeting of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, combined with the Financial Representatives of the inhabitants thereof, it was resolved on the thirteenth day of May last past, that the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars, being part of the unclaimed balances deposited by the Administrators-General of the Counties of Demerara and Essequebo, and of Berbice, which have accrued to the colony, should be applied to the introduction from Madeira, the Azores, and Canary Islands, of able-bodied labourers who had never been resident in this colony, and were under forty years of age, upon the understanding that they should not be required upon their arrival to enter into indentures of service: Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, as follows:—

Governor may pay 35,000 dollars for the passages of certain

1. It shall be lawful for the Governor to pay for the passages of immigrants from Madeira, the Azores, or Canary Islands, the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars in the

whole, provided that such immigrants shall be certified by the Immigration Agent-General to be able-bodied labourers who never before have been resident in this colony, and to be under forty years of age. and immigrants from Madeira, the Azores, Canary Islands.

2. None of the provisions of the Ordinances, No. 7, of the year 1854, or of No. 25 and No. 26, of the year 1856, shall be taken to apply to any of the immigrants who shall be introduced under this Ordinance, but the employment of such immigrants shall be regulated by the Ordinance, No. 3, of the year 1853. Immigration Ordinances not to apply to immigrants under this Ordinance.

3. This Ordinance shall come into operation and take effect on the publication thereof. When Ordinance to take effect.

And that no ignorance may be pretended of this our Ordinance, these presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

This done and enacted at our adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, city of Georgetown, Demerara, this twenty-ninth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and published on the first day of July following.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

By command of the Court,
(Signed) W. B. WOLSELEY, Acting Secretary.

APPENDIX No. 11.

EXTRACT of Speech of the Governor on the opening the Session of the Combined Court, March 2, 1855.

"I HAVE anxiously weighed this subject, and cannot resist the impression that the time has now arrived when we can no longer defray out of the public revenue any part of the cost of the introduction of immigrants, that that charge must, for the future, be paid directly by the planting interest, and that the general revenue must be required to meet only the liabilities already incurred, and those which may hereafter be incurred for the back passages of immigrants not yet introduced. In short, that for the future the planters must pay for their passage hither, and the colony for their passage back to their own country.

"In making this declaration I am prepared for its being viewed at first with apprehension and alarm by the planters; and it might, perhaps, be sufficient for me to urge in its defence the plea of necessity, and of necessity alone. But I am happy to think that in this instance it is not necessary to rest the defence of the proposition altogether upon so unwelcome an argument. My hope and belief is, that the arrangements lately made for the management of the immigrants will, without inflicting the slightest hardship upon them, so much increase the amount of labour to be derived from them, and will consequently so greatly enhance their value as to enable the planter, by means of the assistance which in another shape may still be afforded him, to bear up against the burthen which this plan, if carried out, will cast upon him.

"I have, therefore, spared no pains in endeavouring to satisfy myself whether the cost of the introduction of the immigrants ought for the future to be defrayed out of a new tax to be imposed upon the planters alone, but upon the planters as a body, or whether the estates to which immigrants may be allotted ought to pay for them in exact proportion to the number they may receive. And the latter appears to me to be the fairer and sounder principle of action.

"I consider that so much of the cost of immigration as has hitherto been paid out of the public funds has been, in point of fact, a bonus paid by the community for the production of sugar. It is true that all classes have been content to pay that bonus, in the expectation (which no doubt has been realized), that they would all be benefited by the increase of population; but, nevertheless, seeing that the whole scheme was based upon the distribution of immigrants over the sugar estates, the payments must be considered as a bonus upon sugar.

"If this view be correct, it will be admitted that the amount of bonus paid, in the shape of immigrants allotted, ought to have been proportioned, strictly speaking, to the average production of each estate. Or, at least, that the claim of every proprietor, if he had wished to obtain immigrants, ought to have been governed by that rule.

"It is hardly necessary for me to inform this honourable Court, that no such rule (and probably for strong reasons) has governed the actual distribution; but I greatly doubt if the Court are aware of the extreme disproportion which has actually prevailed, and of which I can satisfy them, in the allotment to the several districts. In some they have received during the past years no more than twelve immigrants to every fifty hogsheads of their average annual produce, while in other districts the allotment has reached even to four and five times that number.

"I confess I am altogether unable to arrive at the possibility of establishing, under the existing system, a sound and wholesome scheme of operations. We cannot by means of assistance from the public funds permanently enable a private speculator, disadvantageously situated, to compete successfully with a neighbour, who, from various causes, may be comparatively independent of foreign aid. All are entitled to their fair proportion of assistance from the public, so long as that assistance is given; but it is wrong to encourage the hope that more than that proportion can continuously be rendered to any. At the same time it must be admitted that many proprietors would be much distressed if they were at once

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required to pay in ready money for the introduction of the immigrants necessary for their operations; and that the immediate abandonment of some estates might be the necessary consequence.

"It is for that reason, and because I consider the prosperity of the planters to be mainly dependent upon the continuance of immigration, and the well-being of all classes to be inseparably connected with the prosperity of the planters, that we may, in my opinion, with the greatest propriety pledge the credit of the colony in aid of their undertakings. In short, I would recommend this honourable Court to sanction an arrangement which, I hope, there would be no difficulty in effecting, for raising loans, from year to year, to the amount necessary to pay the expenses of introducing the immigrants in each year, upon the understanding that such loans shall be paid off in five or seven years by annual instalments from the estates to which they may be allotted.

"We shall thus obtain the best guarantee for the profitable employment of the immigrant, and shall be prepared to pay, without reluctance, for his back passage out of the general revenue.

"It will be necessary for me, as you are aware, to communicate to the Secretary of State, with all convenient despatch, your wishes in respect to the number of immigrants to be introduced into the colony during the season of 1855-6, and to satisfy him as to our arrangements for defraying the cost of them, in order that he may be enabled to transmit to India the necessary directions. I would invite you, therefore, to take an early opportunity of considering this question; inasmuch as if you should be disposed to adopt my proposal, it will be necessary to give immediate public notice to that effect, in order that my application to the Secretary of State may be framed in conformity with the applications which must be previously made here; and also in order that the Court of Policy may be enabled to pass an Ordinance for rendering the estates for which immigrants may be asked for, liable to pay for such as may be allotted to them, for raising the loan, and for fixing the terms of payment by the proprietors.

"It may be well to point out that the proposal here submitted has no connection whatever with the importation of immigrants by private individuals on their own account. That method of proceeding, although rendered legal by the Ordinance, under certain conditions, has never yet been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government; and I am very doubtful whether it can be advantageously acted upon. Before leaving this subject it is proper that you should be informed of my having received, both from the late and from the present Secretary of State, an intimation that Her Majesty's Government consider the introduction of a larger proportion of females to be essential to the maintenance of immigration from India. This opinion, which they have long entertained, is confirmed by the consideration of the prolonged period of service in the colony to which the Court of Directors have assented, and they can, therefore, no longer refrain from enforcing their views. I feel sure that you will heartily support any proposal calculated to meet this suggestion, and thereby to increase the permanent population of the colony."

APPENDIX No. 12.

EXTRACT from Speech of the Governor at opening the Session of the Combined Court, April 11, 1856.

"*Immigration.*—In the estimate for the year 1855 you made a 'provision for immigration' to the amount of $272,000.

"The expenditure has fallen short of the whole vote by the sum of $72,473, principally under the head of 'passage of Coolies;' but there will be an excess for the expenses in India, arising principally out of an amended apportionment lately made by the Land and Emigration Commissioners between the several colonies interested of the expenses incurred in India from 1851 to 1855. The Commissioners find that immigrants have been sent to this colony during those years in the proportion, as compared with those sent to Trinidad, of about six to three instead of five to three, upon which their calculations had been previously based; and the adjustment, therefore, imposes upon this colony the payment of a sum, in excess of that already charged against, of 1,728*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, or $8,294 44.

"The Commissioners have at the same time made an adjustment between the colonies of Jamaica, Guiana, and Trinidad, of Mr. White's expenditure in connection with emigration from China, from which it appears that our share amounts to 2,157*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, or $10,357 70. These two sums, making together 3,886*l.*, may be deducted from the balance on the 31st December last of the British Guiana Guaranteed Loan of about 22,000*l.*, and will leave a balance available for future years of 18,114*l.*

"In connection with the immigration transactions of past years, I have further to bring under your notice a claim first made by Her Majesty's Government in 1847 for repayment of advances made in India before that time, amounting to 6,421*l.* 19*s.* 1¼*d.* It appears from a Schedule forwarded with the Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 99, of the 9th October 1849, that up to that time fifteen reports had been made by the Land and Emigration Commissioners, claiming from the several West Indian Colonies interested repayment of sums shown by each of those Reports to have been advanced by the Government of India for immigration services; and that the total of the claims against British Guiana amounted to 29,114*l.* 2*s.* 4¼*d.* The first eight of these claims were paid into the Commis-

sariat chest here before the end of the year 1847. The three next, amounting together to 6,426*l.* 4*s.* 7¼*d.*, were made in Reports bearing date in September 1847 and February 1848; and in consequence of the political and financial difficulties in which the colony was for some time afterwards involved, the Secretary of State was induced to allow these claims to remain in abeyance. The result was that after the troubles had ceased, these three claims were lost sight of, while four later ones were liquidated by the British Guiana Loan Commissioners in London. Further correspondence ensued in 1851, 1853, and 1854, but no settlement was effected.

"The despatches and other documents relating to these several transactions will be laid before you, in order that you may be enabled to take proper steps for the liquidation of the last claims against the colony for the immigration of past years. You will doubtless be prepared to give your best consideration to the measures which should be taken during this session for ensuring the continuous introduction, and likewise the retention in the colony of the immigrant labourers.

"In the course of last year the Court of Policy, acting upon the resolution of this Honourable Court, passed the Ordinance No. 8, of 1855, for devolving upon the employers of immigrants the payment for the cost of their introduction, to the extent at least of $50 per head; and also the Ordinance No. 16, of 1855, authorizing the raising of a loan for the immediate payment of the sums required in each, and thus permitting the employer to spread his outlay over a term of years.

"Both these Ordinances have received Her Majesty's confirmation; but I regret that I have been unable to obtain for the colony the benefit of the guarantee by the Home Government of the loan to be raised under the latter. We must, therefore, rely upon our own credit and our own exertions for carrying out the scheme, with the further development of it which I have now to recommend for your adoption.

"The Court will remember that in the Speech which I had the honour of addressing to them on the 2nd March 1855, I pointed out the very heavy expenditure which must be incurred in 1856 and the following years, for the back passages of Indian immigrants, for which no provision had been made. When, therefore, it appeared that we should fail in obtaining from India, in the season of 1855-6, the number of immigrants for which applications had been made, and that we had further established the sound principle of requiring the employer to pay personally for the labour of which he stood in need, I conceived that it would be in all respects most advantageous if we were to carry out, as regarded the immigrants already in the colony, the plan already in existence for obtaining new immigrants—that is, if the employers were to pay, through the assistance of a loan, a bounty not exceeding $50 to each Coolie who could be induced to enter into indentures for a further period of five years. The proposal was accordingly submitted to all the proprietors or attornies of estates. Answers have been received, it may be said, from all of them, and in one instance only has the offer been declined. I have also good reason to hope that a large majority of the Coolies who will shortly become entitled to back passages will be found willing either to enter into renewed indentures, or to remain in the colony as holders of certificates of industrial residence, and that thus the community will be saved from the loss of much valuable labour, and for some years at least will be relieved from the task of providing for a large number of back passages. The proposal will, of course, require the sanction of resolutions of this Court, to be confirmed by an Ordinance. I confess that, on looking back to the policy which I advocated in your last Session, it is very re-assuring to find, both from the number of applications for new Coolies and from the readiness evinced to pay bounty for the old ones, that the burthen which was then transferred from the colonial revenues to the individual employers was not one too great for their resources; and I think none will be prepared to deny that there is in the present circumstances of the colony much ground for congratulation that the change was then effected.

"I will also take this opportunity of mentioning, that having in the month of September last suggested to the Secretary of State that importation of immigrants on private account should be sanctioned, I have received a despatch, dated the 31st December last, in which Mr. Labouchere states, that 'having regard to the gross abuses and the fatal results which arose out of the system of collecting and deporting immigrants by private agency, before that system was put an end to by the Indian Government,' he cannot but see many and serious difficulties in the way of allowing Indian immigrants to be introduced by private parties. He proposes, however, to call for further information from the agents in India; and I have earnestly requested to be informed of the exact nature of the evils which Her Majesty's Government apprehend, and have expressed my confidence that the colonists will do their utmost to overcome them.

"You will learn with satisfaction the result of a recommendation made by me in the month of March 1855, to the effect that immigrants should again be introduced from the Presidency of Madras. By the last mail a communication has been received from Mr. Thomson, who has been appointed emigration agent there, stating that if he had received his appointment one month sooner, he could with ease have sent off the whole number ordered, and that he had requested Lord Harris to extend the shipping season for one month, in order that he might send some. It is probable that this would be allowed, and that some may arrive in this season, but at any rate we may look with confidence to the season of 1856-7."

APPENDIX No. 13.

To His Grace the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c. &c.

The Elective Members of the Court of Policy of British Guiana, to whom was intrusted the task of considering and replying to the Despatch of his Grace the Secretary of State for the Colonies, No. 48, of the 14th March, disallowing the Immigration Ordinance, No. 3, of the present year, before entering upon the discharge of that duty, beg leave to explain that they would have submitted their views upon the important questions raised by that Despatch at a much earlier period; but finding, on reference to the date of the Despatch, that it must have been written and forwarded while Governor Barkly was actually known to be on his way home, they were naturally desirous to await tidings of what course he might think it advisable to adopt, and to ascertain the probable or actual result of the interposition which it was confidentally expected would be exerted by him against the effect of a Despatch in which he was personally referred to, and which peremptorily negatived a law which he had been actively engaged in assisting to frame and complete. They now, however, find, from private communications received by the last mail, that his Excellency's appointment to the government of Jamacia will prevent him from the execution of a task for which he is peculiarly well qualified, and limit his interposition to the expression of a general dissent from the conclusions arrived at, and of exception to the tone in which those conclusions are conveyed in the Despatch in question.

They, therefore, proceed to state the remarks which have occurred to them, as being called for by the communication of his Grace the Secretary of State, premising that, considering the admission contained in the despatch, "*that the Ordinance comprises many "provisions of detail which are unobjectionable, and did not require the previous authorization "of Her Majesty's Government,*" the Local Legislature has, in their opinion, just reason to complain of the ungracious and peremptory disallowance of the ordinance as a whole, conceiving that the colony might have been allowed the benefit of the improvements effected in the machinery by which the law was to be carried out, and that the Legislature might have been desired to reconsider the points in which Her Majesty's Government differed in opinion from that body.

Proceeding *seriatim* with the comments of the despatch, they have to observe:—

1st. With regard to sections 4 and 5, that if it was a matter of surprise to Her Majesty's Government *that "Ordinance No. 3, 1853, contained important changes with regard to the "nature of contracts with immigrants, and enactments inconsistent with the views heretofore "entertained by Her Majesty's Government on this subject,*" it is no less a matter of surprise to them that the dearly bought experience of the failure of the former Ordinances should have been unknown to his Grace the Secretary for the Colonies, since they feel satisfied that the fact must have been duly communicated and explained in official reports and despatches by his Excellency Governor Barkly; and, consequently, that Her Majesty's Government had the opportunity of knowing that some different arrangements were required, so as to enable British Guiana to obtain an adequate equivalent for the enormous outlay on immigration, which, if carried on in conformity with the old Ordinance and the system which the colonists have hitherto been forced to adopt, must inevitably cause the ruin of the colony by the accumulation of debt and consequent taxation; *or as the alternative*, if altogether discontinued, put a stop to the hopes of returning prosperity now cherished, and cause a relapse and slow but sure retrogression, which it can certainly not be the desire of the Home Government to originate or promote, whilst it can be avoided without any expense to or sacrifice of principle on the part of the mother country, simply by leaving the Colonial Legislature as much as possible to manage its own affairs, and abstaining from interference in contracts made openly and in good faith between free subjects of Her Majesty, or between them and the inhabitants of other countries, subject, of course, in the latter case, to such regulations as the Imperial Government may conceive necessary in deference to international relations.

2dly. With regard to sections 6 and 7, they can only say that the so-called concessions made by his Grace's predecessors, Earl Grey and Sir John Pakington, show that they were open to conviction, and willing to abandon early misconceptions, after having been better informed; and they indulge the hope that his Grace the Duke of Newcastle will act with no less magnanimity if they are able to show that, in the case of the Coolie and Chinese immigrants, not only has the lowest contract for a term of three years worked well, and to the mutual satisfaction of employed and employers, but that the indenture of five years is by far preferable for the good of the labourer himself, and that of the colony at large.

3dly. With regard to Sections 8 and 9, they have to state that, though there can be no reasonable objection to allow the Chinese or other immigrants the right to change their employer, by entering into a new contract at the expiration of the year, or sooner in case of dissatisfaction, proved to be well founded or reasonable before a stipendiary magistrate, still there can be no doubt in law or equity that the Chinese and Coolie could and ought to be left to his own free will, and that he has an indisputable right to engage his services

for *any* number of years, and on such conditions as he may think fit, and the interference of *the Government* and *Board of Control* is not only entirely uncalled for in this country, where abuse of power by the employer is impossible, for the very simple reason that the employed has the laws as well as the great want of labour in his favour; but also highly unjust towards this sorely tried colony, now struggling to overcome the difficulties brought on it by the obstacles interposed by the Imperial Government to an adequate supply of labour in the room of that withdrawn by Imperial legislation, and compelled to pay dearly for the permission to introduce labourers indispensably required to render the large invested capital of the proprietary body available, but which expenditure, if such restrictions as the colony has hitherto been subjected to are still to be enforced and to be persisted in, will be rendered useless and nugatory.

4thly. With regard to Section 10, they have to remind his Grace that the form of contract under which the Chinese imported by the ships of Messrs. Booker Brothers, and Hyde, Hodge, and Co., were indentured was entirely satisfactory to the people themselves, who, in fact, made it the principal point of their bargain that the amount of wages and food to be given to them should be stipulated, and a long term of employment should be fixed in the contract. But that at all events, though the stipulations now objected to were agreed to in order to satisfy the people, they are of no practical importance whatever, inasmuch as these and other provisions contained in the contract could only stand good in so far as they were not in contravention with the existing Immigration Ordinances and general laws of the country, whilst at this moment there is not one of those contracts enforced; the Chinese, like all other labourers in the country, *being paid according to the task performed*, under which regulation they are quite happy and contented.

Let it be also remembered that the Legislature had nothing to do with the form of contracts made in China, since all the immigration yet effected from that country has been by private speculation upon payment of a bounty.

5thly. In answer to Sections 11, 12, and 13, they have to state that Clause 46 of the new Ordinance is the same, *verbatim* as Section 8 of Ordinance 22 of 1851, but that if it is *now* considered to be too vague in respect to the power of determining the contract given therein to the immigrant, there is no objection to make any reasonable alterations therein or addition thereto by which this right may be better secured or its effect more eaily obtained. And further, that the re-indenturing of Coolies for a term of five years after commuting their right to return passage was for the good of the Coolie, to prevent him becoming a vagrant, as much as for the support of the public treasury, which thereby received back a part of the bounty paid to the Coolie from the employer to whom he was indentured; that, however, if eight or ten years' residence in the colony was conceded, there would be no objection to take the first five years' indenture as sufficient proof of industrial residence over the whole period, with right to return passage, provided a certain proportion thereof, say forty or forty-five dollars, be paid by the Coolie.

6thly. With respect to Sections 14 and 15 of the despatch, they have stated already, in remarking on the 8th and 9th Sections thereof, that injustice or oppression on the part of the employer towards the employed is at least as little likely to exist in this colony as in any part of Her Majesty's dominions; both because of its peculiar position which renders labour scarce, and will continue to create a demand for it, even in spite of a regular annual importation of thousands of immigrants, and because justice is brought to every man's district, if not to his door, without any cost to complainants, though at a considerable expenditure from the general funds of this colony. And, further, they beg to remind his Grace that, according to the new as well as according to the old Ordinance, the immigrant may, on proper application before a magistrate, change his employer, and that he may even free himself of all obligations of contract under reasonable conditions; also, that though he is bound for a certain term to give his labour to a certain person, or rather on a certain estate, still he is to receive and has a right to claim the same wages which other labourers, not indentured, receive; and is further under no restriction or discipline whatsoever. There is, therefore, no limit to the field of industry for which this people (entirely unacquainted, as they are, on their arrival with the language and habits of the colony) are fit, and no want of the stimulus of gain; for if the Chinese will work a double task, as the Portuguese often do, by working eight or nine instead of four or five hours per day, he may make his three or four shillings with simple hoe and cutlass work, where the creole labourer is content with one and sixpence or two shillings, provided he can rest in the afternoon. The contract then being neither stringent nor one-sided as against the labourer, and the period of five years scarcely sufficient to make the Chinese understand a few words of English, and fit for any other than unskilled labour, there is no reasonable ground for apprehension on account of their assumed dissatisfaction, or so much spoken of formidable and skilful combination. The six months' experience we have now had of this people—about 800—has proved that, being a handful of helpless strangers among the different races, of which our population of 130,000 is already composed, they are glad to be left in peace, and that their presence is more to be regretted on account of their moral inferiority, and the absence of their females, than anything else, drawbacks for which, however, the Colonial Legislature is not responsible, and to which the Colony need not be exposed but for the restrictions which prevent the supplying of this fine and rich country with races better adapted to its wants, and much more easily obtained and transported, namely, Africans and Coolies.

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The Elective Members do not entertain the slightest fear that "any injudicious or intem-"perate attempt on the part of particular planters to put the law into effect will cause "dissatisfaction among this people," for they know that they are bound to serve their five years on *some* estate, nor has there been heard from Coolie or Chinese the slightest objection to this arrangement, whilst no attempt to bind the *Chinese* to the inoperative contract (on a fixed monthly salary and food) entered into in China according to their own wishes at the time will be made, or if made, would be entertained by any magistrate, considering that in *no* case does the planter feed his immigrants (Chinese or others) longer than six or eight weeks, by which time they can earn sufficient for their own maintenance, putting thereby, in fact, the Chinese precisely in the same position with all other immigrants *receiving wages in proportion to the work done*, and only being bound to give their labour, on equal terms with others, to "*some*" estate, which in return is bound to provide lodging, &c., and hospital accommodation, and medical attendance in case of sickness.

7thly. In reference to the comments, Section 16 of the Despatch, the Elective Members can only say that in their opinion the only cause for regret in connexion with Ordinances based upon such unreasonable and onerous stipulations as one year's indenture, return passage, &c., is, that they were ever forced upon the Legislature, though they are willing to give Earl Grey credit for having done so with the best intentions, especially adverting to the strong probability that had he remained in office his views on this subject would have been considerably modified by an attentive consideration of the results of experience as to the evil effects and confusion occasioned by short contracts with and free return passage to Coolies.

8thly. His Grace's remarks (Section 17 of the Despatch) speak "of leading the way to "a five years' indenture system, by a further experience of three years' indenture." In this view the Elective Members cannot concur; they consider that sufficient confusion and uncertainty in this respect has already existed to the great detriment of the colony. Large numbers of Coolies, though five years in the colony, have been but three years under indenture; and, consequently, while ever giving them credit for having performed an *industrial* residence during this first three years they were indentured, how is it to be known that they were working industrially during the other two years?

The well-known fact is, that by far the greater part of the Coolies, though five years in the country, did not perform more than three years, that is, 900 days of five to six hours' labour, whilst the monthly dues to be paid by those who did not wish to come under indenture on any estate were never paid. Not one shilling from that source was received, though no less than twelve sub-immigration agents were appointed for the purpose of recovering these dues; but the experience of nine months amply proved that voluntary payments were not to be expected, and that to enforce them would be attended by no success. The colony, therefore, has had quite enough of this ruinous experiment, and the Legislature in framing the disallowed Ordinance was desirous of removing the difficulties arising from arrangements so ill adapted to the peculiar situation of this country, however well they might be found to work elsewhere.

In reference to his Grace's remark, that a contract or renewed contract of five years' duration with one master or employer, if it could be enforced, would imply a state of things hardly compatible with personal freedom, the Elective Members must beg leave to express their total difference of opinion: first, they would remind his Grace of the duration of apprenticeships under the law of England, as well as of the duration of engagements in Her Majesty's service at sea and on land, and that the immigrants in general, but Coolies in particular, during the first years after their arrival are nothing else than apprentices, and much less fit to be left entirely free agents in a strange country, and without any guardianship or provision for their reception in case of sickness, than the young man born in England who is destined to learn a trade in his native country under greater restrictions and severer discipline; secondly, they cannot see upon what principle his Grace describes contracts made by immigrants with British subjects, according to British laws and regulations, and under the supervision of the officers of the Crown, *compulsory*, unless a bounty of fifty dollars to remain a few years longer in comparative abundance and comfort is to be considered as "compulsory;" thirdly, they do not understand why the Legislature should be supposed to desire or to do anything inconsistent with good faith, since *no* Coolie was re-indentured but according to his own desire, to the place of his own choice, on receiving the bounty already mentioned; and in accordance with the old as well as the new Ordinances, ample warning was always given to all Coolies interested, not only in the newspapers, but also by the magistrates of the districts and the managers of the estates, that bounties in proportion to the number of years of re-indenture would be offered at certain dates and places by commissioners appointed to that effect, assisted by the immigration agent-general, to such as might decide upon postponing their claim to a return passage; fourthly, as representatives of the loyal, honest, and industrious inhabitants of this colony, the Elective Members must beg leave to express their conviction that they have not deserved any comment expressing doubt as to their desire or intention to keep faith with and deal justly to all men, Coolie immigrants included.

There is, therefore, no justifiable ground for supposing that "Her Majesty's subjects "would be indentured to masters towards whom they may feel the strongest aversion;" for no re-indenturing is possible under the Ordinances (old or new) but with the free will

of the immigrant himself, provisions being made to transfer contracts from one master or employer to another, and even of discontinuing the same on refunding money advanced; and these provisions are equally applicable in the case of planters engaging immigrants on their own account to their own estates, whatever the period of the engagement or the nationality of the immigrant may be, and for the encouragement of which Clause V. was enacted in the disallowed Ordinance, in order to relieve the public funds or general taxpayer as much as possible.

9thly. In Sections 18, 19, and 20 of his Grace's despatch, concerning the terms on which return passages are to be given to the Coolies, it is agreed "*That there is no injustice in "requiring that the Coolies should pay for their own return passages in the manner in which "that payment has been imposed upon them by the system originally suggested by Earl Grey, "that is, by a stamp duty on engagements, indirectly falling upon the wages of labour, or by a "monthly tax directly levied.*" But his Grace cannot be entirely ignorant, or, if so, the Elective Members have now the honour distinctly and clearly to state, that the working of this system has proved to be unsuited to their circumstances; that it is impossible to enforce stamp duties on engagements, inasmuch as the Coolie feels at once discouraged and dissatisfied when money is deducted from his wages, which, during the early part of his residence are necessarily smaller than those earned by seasoned and more inured labourers; that the attempt made on some estates to deduct from their wages a proportion of the nine dollars allowed to be deducted per annum (under the old Ordinance) for lodging and medical attendance created great dissatisfaction, and was very partial and unjust in its application, inasmuch as it was from the wages of the best and most industrious labourers alone that such deductions could be made without subjecting many to great privations, and therefore, if persisted in, it would have acted as an encouragement to idleness and a drawback to industry. Furthermore, the deduction of money from wages for passage or otherwise, from whatever description of immigrants, the Portuguese included, has always been attended with the greatest difficulties, leading to the desertion of the people to other estates, or even if found out and brought back from thence, they have next escaped to less frequented places up the rivers and creeks, where they could securely bid defiance to pursuit. Such being the inevitable results of the system proposed and intended to be enforced on us under the name of stamp duties, the Legislature declined to make the experiment, satisfied that the planter would rather submit to lose the money than to incur the certain risk of losing money and labour both. But further, with respect to monthly dues, the Elective Members submit that there is no possibility of enforcing the payment of such a tax from hundreds of Coolies wandering over our extensive country, and bound to no particular locality; that the cost of collecting such dues, or rather the attempt to do so, has exceeded a thousand fold the amount received; that its stringent enforcement would fill our jails with debtors, and require a doubled police force; and that therefore, according to this our painful and deeply bought experience, the imposing of this monthly tax, and allowing Coolies to be brought into the colony at considerable expense without adequate provisions for securing a return in the shape of continuous labour, was a great error, which ought never to have been committed, and the recurrence of or even persistence in which would be much to be deplored.

That, therefore, finding it, as above stated, impossible to get money out of the Cooly towards the payment of his back passage by the means prescribed in the old Ordinance; finding it impossible to get on an average more than three years' *industrial* residence out of him during five years of his residence in the colony; finding it exceedingly troublesome, oppressive, and vexatious to burden the Cooly with the obligations of furnishing the proof necessarily required before a certificate of *industrial* residence can be given by the stipendiary magistrate of the district; being desirous to do all that lay in their power to obviate difficulties and impediments to their return passage, if fairly entitled to it according to agreement; but, at the same time, with a due regard to justice, and the right of the colony to a reasonable *quid pro quo* in labour for the enormous outlay in money; the Legislature thought, and is still of opinion, that the best arrangement under the existing circumstances of forced return passages was to give up the right of the employers to the nine dollars per annum for lodging and medical attendance, to make the Coolie pay this same money and no more into the public treasury towards his return passage, and, at the same time therewith, to relieve him of all obligation now resting on him to prove an industrial residence, taking it for granted that a man who has exerted himself sufficiently to save in five years' time $45, has performed sufficient work to entitle him to a return passage.

By way of objection to this, it is observed by his Grace that the Coolie, if left to pay for his return passage by instalments or not, as he pleases, will often neglect the payment of the instalments and be unable to return at the expiration of his term of residence from want of funds.

Now, the Elective Members venture to state in reply, that they have good reasons for believing that in general such will not be the case, and in proof thereof they beg to remind his Grace that not one ship left this colony with return Coolies who had not in their possession considerable sums of money (in one instance over $24,000), or more than $100 per head on an average, being the amount of their savings; that though the Coolie, generally speaking, may not be considered as the best judge of his own interests during the first years of his arrival, and can only gain by being indentured to an estate, yet is he a perfectly competent judge of the relative advantages of returning to India, or of re-indenturing

BRITISH GUIANA.

for a further term, as well as his own interest in putting by money and keeping it to carry it home, after having been put in the way to earn it, during five years' residence in this colony, as is further satisfactorily proved by the fact that there were $33,692 (thirty-three thousand six hundred and ninety-two dollars) belonging *to Coolies* in the Colonial Savings' Bank on the 31st December last.

That further, the desire to return home at the expiration of the fixed period of years would act as a stimulus, and do more towards the so-much desired *industrial residence* than any other measure they could think of. That as it is now, the certainty of a return passage without any exertion of their own causes many to be indifferent and unwilling to labour beyond what is necessary for the supply of the most pressing wants. That again, in case of sickness or disability from accidents or otherwise, the Governor has by law a right, *and has exercised that right,* to allow a free return passage, even though the immigrant should not have done a day's work. That, furthermore, very few Coolies are introduced into this colony without some members of their families accompanying them, and that it would be quite competent for the Board of Directors of the East India Company, in order to allay their anxiety as to the feelings of the Coolie's family, from whom he is temporarily separated, to order that no Coolie be allowed to leave his wife and children behind when emigrating from Madras or Calcutta to Demerara; a measure which would be entirely in accordance with the ideas of morality and humanity generally entertained in this colony in connexion with every description of immigration as well as conducive to the promotion of immigration upon a system most acceptable to those who are directly interested in its satisfactory prosecution.

That, whilst the necessity of doing something to earn their return passage will secure the return of the industrious, and therefore of the best Coolies, and tend to improve the idle by necessitating (as the condition of their enjoying a like advantage) one or more years' prolonged residence in a country where the least perseverance and industry have always been rewarded by success, and where unskilled labour is always in demand and liberally paid.

After, therefore, mature deliberation, they still adhere to their first impression, which has been strengthened by subsequent experience, that a new Ordinance was and is indispensable; and they would beg as a favour to be informed by Her Majesty's Government whether it would be disposed to concede the subjoined points to be embodied as the leading provisions in a new Ordinance to be prepared for regulating Coolie immigration.

Say—Eight years' residence in the colony, of which five under indenture.

Right to return passage on expiration of eight years' residence in the colony, as above, on paying $40 (forty dollars) to public treasury.

Right of determining contract to be allowed to the Coolie on such terms as may be considered reasonable.

Bounty offered by the colony for a prolonged term of residence, or to be in lieu of any guarantee for a return passage, as may be agreed on with the Coolie, not to imply re-indenture.

In proposing these measures as leading points of the so-much required and desired Ordinance, the Elective Members trust that it will be distinctly understood that their object is *not to waste* either their own time or that of his Grace the Secretary of State in useless discussions or vain recrimination; they *know* and *feel* what is wanted for the promotion of the interest of this colony, of which they are the representatives, and they approach his Grace with the earnest and unaffected desire of arriving at some practical solution of the difficulties by which they find themselves encumbered.

They therefore respectfully remind his Grace that former Immigration Ordinances have been returned for reconsideration and amendment, but not as in the present instance (and in a style of comment which they regard as unsuitable to the occasion) peremptorily disallowed. They also remind him that he has admitted that in the disallowed Ordinance there was much to which Her Majesty's Government could offer no objection. They entreat, therefore, that upon a calm and deliberate view of the whole case, remembering the importance of the object to be attained, and giving the foregoing explanations such weight as may seem to be their due, his Grace would be pleased to indicate specifically and distinctly to what extent the Legislature may be at liberty to re-enact the disallowed Ordinances, and most particularly what arrangements more likely to be attended with advantage to the colony, while not less just to the immigrant, it may be permitted them to make in regard to the great questions of terms of indenture and provision for return passages, if, indeed, that obnoxious stipulation is still to be adhered to in all its vexatious features.

They trust that his Grace will carefully advert to the history of this colony for the last fifteen years; that he will deign to remember how many efforts of the Local Legislature to replenish the void created in the labour market by the will of the British nation have been neutralized or repulsed by the influence of impressions, some of which have been (though but slowly and reluctantly) modified, and others abandoned as confessedly untenable; that such concessions as their prolonged and earnest representations have obtained from the Imperial Government have been based upon conditions in which they were *compelled* to acquiesce, and that their hopes of success to the Ordinance now disallowed were strengthened and supported by the reflection that they had ungrudgingly and liberally provided for a prolonged term of years for the exigencies of the Civil Government, as well as for the maintenance of a large body of ministers of religion; everything, in short, in their power

to do—every pledge they have thought it possible to offer—has been done or offered in token of their sincere desire to conciliate the support and secure the confidence of Her Majesty's Government.

It is, they confess, disheartening in the extreme at this late period, and after wrestling through such a struggle as well nigh threatened extinction to this community as an exporting country, to be treated with distrust, and trammelled in the performance of their legislative duties; but they are not without hope that further reflection will convince his Grace the Secretary of State that they merit more liberal treatment, and they are satisfied that a high-minded nobleman, once having reason to believe that his previous views were erroneous, will not hesitate to make them that reparation to which, with every respect and deference, they take leave to say they feel themselves entitled.

In conclusion, the Elective Members best most respectfully to express their hope that they have convinced his Grace the Secretary of State by the foregoing observations, framed in no captious or irritated spirit, that the amount and mode of payment proposed in the disallowed Ordinance to be made by the Coolie towards his return passage is, if not the only practicable one, at least infinitely better than the one previously proposed, which has been found inapplicable and annoying, to say nothing of its consequences to the finances of the colony.

(Signed) A. D. V. Gon Netscher.
Thos Porter, Jun.
Matthew Steele.
John Jones.

Jamaica.

APPENDIX No. 14.

(No. 4171.)

JAMAICA, ss.

CAP. VIII.

AN ACT to provide for an extended Industrial Service of East Indian Immigrants, for allotting Lands to all Immigrants who shall fulfil their Contracts, and to make better Provision for the Return Passage of East Indian Immigrants.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the Governor-General of India in Council has given his assent to the emigration to this colony of natives of the possessions of the East India Company, under engagements to render industrial service for a period of ten years, in consideration whereof they are to be provided with a passage back to their own country at the expense of the colony: And whereas Her Majesty's Government deem it expedient to provide for the reduction, upon certain conditions, of the said period of industrial service: And whereas it is expedient to make provision for the allotment of lands in this colony to immigrants as an encouragement to the further settlement of this island and the more efficient cultivation of the soil, a large extent of which now lies wholly waste: Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly of this island, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, as follows:

Every East Indian immigrant, arriving after the passing of this Act, who shall obtain a certificate of industrial residence, shall be entitled after ten years to a return passage.
Proviso.

First.—That every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, who shall arrive in this colony at any time after the passing of this Act, and who shall acquire a certificate of industrial residence in manner provided by the Act of the fifteenth Victoria, chapter thirty-eight, shall be entitled, at the expiration of ten years from the time of such arrival, to be provided at the expense of this colony with a return passage to the port from whence he sailed: Provided, that it shall be incumbent upon every such immigrant, as the condition of his claim to a return passage, that he shall, for the last five years of such ten years as above mentioned, enter into one or more contracts of industrial service, any one of which contracts shall be of not less than one year's duration, and shall be subject to the provisions of the several Acts now in force, and of any Act hereafter to be in force for the regulation of immigration into this colony, or that such immigrant shall pay to the Agent-General of Immigration the sum of two pounds ten shillings for every one of such last five years during which he shall not have been under contract of service.

Members of the executive committee declared to be members of immigration correspondence.

Second.—That the members of the executive committee for the time being shall be and they are hereby declared to be members of the Board of Immigration Correspondence.

Governor to appropriate 5,000*l.* out of immigration loan for the purchase of land.

Third.—That it shall be lawful for the Governor to appropriate, out of the loan raised or to be raised under the Act of the fifteenth Victoria, chapter thirty-nine, such sums of money as may be found necessary, not exceeding (five thousand pounds), for the purchase or acquisition of land for the purposes of this Act.

Board of correspondence may purchase land for the purposes of this Act.

Fourth.—That it shall be lawful for the Board of Immigration Correspondence from time to time to contract for the absolute purchase in fee simple of any land which shall, from its proximity to any plantation or other place wherever immigrants of any description may be located, or otherwise shall, from any other circumstance, be suitable for the purposes of this Act; and all such lands shall be conveyed to Her Majesty the Queen, her heirs and successors, for the purposes of this Act.

Governor may grant lands to immigrants under certain conditions.

Fifth.—That it shall be lawful for the Governor to grant in Her Majesty's name any land purchased or taken for the purposes of this Act to any immigrant of any description who may come to and desire to settle in this island, and whom the said Board of Immigration Correspondence shall recommend, in consideration of his faithful performance and discharge of the contracts, or contract of service, which he shall have entered into, as a proper person to receive a grant of land, in the proportion of one acre for every year of service which he shall have given under contract as aforesaid: Provided, that unless such land so granted to such immigrant shall be settled and cultivated in part or in the whole within twelve months from the date of his patent, such land shall be forfeited and become vested in Her Majesty the Queen as if the same had not been granted, and shall be thereafter applicable or disposable to the purposes of this Act.

Proviso.

A grant of land declared a waiver of right to return passage.

Sixth.—That every immigrant of any description who may, under this or any other Act, be entitled to claim a return passage, and shall accept a grant of land under this Act, shall be thereby held to have waived and surrendered all claim to a return passage.

Lands assigned to immigrants to be accurately surveyed.

Seventh.—That in order to ascertain correctly the bounds of the lands so intended to be granted under the provisions of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor to direct the different pieces or parcels of land, as from time to time they shall be granted, to

be surveyed and laid out by one or more sworn surveyors to be named by him, who shall thereupon proceed to lay out such pieces or parcels of land, and make out two plats of each respectively under their hands, one of which shall be recorded in the office of the secretary of this island, and the other given to the person to whom and in whose favour such grant or patent shall be made, and which said survey and plat so enrolled shall be conclusive as to the boundaries of any two contiguous parcels.

Such lands to be acquitted of all arrears of quit rent; and the grants thereof to be free from stamp duty.

Eighth.—That all lands to be granted to immigrants by virtue of this Act shall be acquitted and discharged of and from all arrearages of quit-rent that may have been due and payable thereon to the time when such grant shall be made, and that all such grants of land under and by virtue of this Act shall be without fee or stamp duty, or any other charge in respect of such grant or patent.

Immigrants receiving grants of land to be exempt from certain taxes for three years.

Ninth.—That all persons who shall receive a grant or patent for land under the provisions of this Act shall be exempted from all manner of direct taxes and charges and assessments, public and parochial, whatsoever (any tax on horse kind and horned stock only excepted), for the space of three years from the time when such grant or patent shall be made.

Immigrants under contract may occupy lands assigned to them by the Board of Correspondence;

Tenth.—That it shall be lawful for the Board of Immigration Correspondence to permit any immigrant at any time, or from time to time, during the period of his industrial service, to occupy any parcel of land which they shall think fit to assign to him for such term or space of time, and upon such conditions as they shall fix and determine upon, so that such occupation shall not prevent or interfere with the due and faithful discharge of any contract of service entered into by any such immigrant.

and during such permissive occupation shall be exempt from direct taxation

Eleventh.—That no immigrant who shall be permitted to occupy land during his industrial service, as herein provided, shall, nor shall the land so occupied, be liable to any direct tax or charge or assessment, public or parochial, whatsoever, during such permissive occupation.

Such land to be delivered up on notice,

Twelfth.—That on the expiration of thirty days after a notice in writing, signed by any three of the members of such board, requiring any immigrant, permitted to occupy land during the period of his industrial service as herein provided, to quit and deliver up possession, shall have been left with such immigrant, his wife or widow, or any of his children or family, upon such land so permissively occupied; or in case no person be found in possession of such premises, then, upon the lapse of thirty days after such notice as aforesaid shall have been left upon the premises, if such possession shall not have been delivered up agreeably to the requirement of such notice, it shall be lawful for any two justices of the peace of the parish wherein such land is situate, having first summoned the defendant to appear before them, by warrant under their hands to order any policeman, constable, or other peace officer to enter upon such land and into any dwellings thereon, and to remove every person who shall be found thereon or therein, together with his goods, out of the same, and to put the said Board of Immigration Correspondence in the possession thereof.

or immigrant may be dispossessed by warrant of two justices.

Immigrants born out of British territory may be naturalized on taking oaths, &c.

Thirteenth.—That every person born out of the limits of British territory who shall obtain a grant of land under the provisions of this Act shall thereby become and be entitled, within the limits of this island, to all the privileges of a natural-born British subject: Provided, that such person shall first have obtained a certificate in the form hereunto annexed from the Agent-General of Immigration, and shall have recorded the same in the office of the Secretary of this island, and shall have taken the oaths of allegiance, which the Agent-General is hereby empowered to administer, and shall in such certificate certify having administered.

Short title of Act.

Fourteenth.—That in citing this Act in any document, instrument, or proceeding, it shall be sufficient to use the expression "Extended Industrial Service and Land Allotment Act."

Form of Certificate.

I certify that A.B., being a native of , and having a grant of land made to him under the provisions of the Victoria, chapter , has expressed his desire to become a naturalized British subject, and has this day taken before me the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty's Government, which I have administered unto him, as by law I am authorized to do.

Dated this day of , in the year .

C.D.,
Agent-General of Immigration.

Warrant to enter Land occupied under this Act, and remove Persons therefrom.

Jamaica, ss,
Parish of } To any policeman, constable, or other peace officer.

Whereas complaint hath been made unto us, A.B. and C.D., esquires, two of Her Majesty's justices of the peace for the said parish, upon the oath of , and other evidence now produced to us, that E.F. occupies the piece or parcel of land situate at , by the permission of the Board of Immigration Correspondence, and hath been duly required to yield and deliver up the possession or occupation thereof, and hath refused and still doth refuse to quit such possession; and the said E.F. having been summoned to appear before us this day to show cause why he should not be removed from the

JAMAICA.

said land, and having shown no sufficient cause for such purpose (or not having appeared), we do hereby authorize and require you, with such assistance as shall be necessary, to enter into the said land and every house and building thereupon in the day-time, and remove the said E.F. and all such persons as shall be found therein, together with his and their goods, out of such house and buildings and premises, and to put G.H., the person appointed by the Board of Immigration Correspondence, into the possession thereof.

Given under our hands this day of

Passed the Assembly this 9th day of December 1856.

C. M'LARTY MORALES, Speaker.

Passed the Legislative Council this 11th day of December 1856.

SAML. RENNALLS, Asst. Clerk to the Legislative Council.

I consent this 19th day of December 1856.

E. W. BELL.

Vera Copia Extur. W. G. STEWART, Sec.

APPENDIX No. 15.

JAMAICA.

CAP. XXI.

AN ACT* to make further Provision for the Return Passages, or the Commutation thereof, to East Indian Immigrants still in this Island.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the funds already provided are insufficient to meet the expenses of the return passages of East Indian immigrants still in this island to the port or place from whence they embarked, or to discharge the specified commutation in lieu of such passages, to which passages or commutation such immigrants at their option are by law entitled: Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly of this island, that it shall be lawful for the Governor or person exercising the functions of Governor, upon the passing of this Act, further to appropriate out of the loans raised under the Act Fifteenth Victoria, chapter thirty-nine, such sum or sums of money as may be found necessary to defray the charges and incidental expenses of the return passages of the remaining immigrants aforesaid, or such of them as shall desire to return to the port or place from whence they embarked, and to meet the payment of the sums speeified in the Act Sixteenth Victoria, chapter eighteen, and thereby authorized and directed to be paid to the said immigrants, or such of them as shall be desirous to remain in this island, as an equivalent for foregoing their right to return passages at the cost of this island.

The Governor may appropriate out of the loans raised under 15th Vict. c. 39, such sums as necessary to defray the charges of returning certain immigrants.

II. And be it enacted, That on the passing of this Act the Agent-General of Immigration shall cause to be inserted in the "Jamaica Gazette" by authority, and to be therein published for and during the space of one calendar month, a notice calling on all the remaining immigrants, as aforesaid, to appear at the Immigration Office in the city of Kingston, within the first seven days of the month of May now next ensuing, and to express their option respectively in the premises; and the said Agent-General of Immigration shall also, at the time of inserting such notice in the said "Jamaica Gazette," forward to each sub-agent of immigration throughout this island a copy of such notice, and require each sub-agent, whose duty it shall thereupon become, to cause a copy of the same to be affixed to or on the door of the court-house of every parish, and also on the door of every house or place where petty sessions are held throughout the district for which each such sub-agent has been or shall be appointed; and such notice may also be circulated in such other manner as the Commissioners, under any Act of the Legislature of this island, for providing return passages of the immigrants aforesaid, may direct.

Agent-General of Immigration to give notice in "Gazette" for one month requiring immigrants entitled to return passages to appear in May.

III. And be it enacted, That every such immigrant who shall make default in such appearance and expression of option shall forfeit and lose all claim, both to a return passage and the specified commutation therefor.

Every immigrant not then appearing to forfeit his claim to a return passage.

APPENDIX No. 16.

JAMAICA.

CAP. LII.

AN ACT* to amend the Acts of the Fifteenth Victoria, Chapter Thirty-eight, and Fifteenth Victoria, Chapter Thirty-nine, in respect to the Determination of the Contracts of Service of Immigrants, and the cancelling of the Bonds of their Employers, and for other Purposes.

Preamble.
Recites 15 Vict. c. 38.

WHEREAS by the Act of the Fifteenth Victoria, chapter thirty-eight, the Chinese and other immigrants therein mentioned, who have been or shall be introduced into this island, under the provisions of such Act, are brought within the meaning of a certain other Act

* These Acts were left to their operation by order in Council enclosed in Secretary of States' Despatch No. 28, October 31, 1855.

of the Fifth Victoria, chapter forty-three, and the jurisdiction in respect to contracts with such Chinese and other immigrants is vested in the stipendiary and other justices of this island, with the same powers in respect to any such contract as are vested in them by such last-mentioned Act in respect to contracts therein specified, and by such last-mentioned Act power is given to two justices as therein particularly provided to determine any contract: And whereas it is doubtful whether the Governor is authorized on any such determination of a contract, or in case of the death of the immigrant, to cancel the bonds or bond given, or to be given, under a certain other Act of the Fifteenth Victoria, chapter thirty-nine, section sixteen: Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly of this island, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for two justices of the peace to determine any contract with any Chinese or other immigrants, as aforesaid; but it shall be lawful for the Agent-General of Immigration, or any sub-agent of immigrarion, or any justice of the peace, to be in that behalf specially appointed by the Governor to entertain and adjudicate on, and enforce his judgment in any complaint, at the instance of any such immigrant or of his employer respectively, with all the like powers which two justices of the peace are vested with under the said Acts of the Fifth Victoria, chapter forty-three, and the Fifteenth Victoria, chapter thirty-eight; and also to have and exercise the like power of determining any such contract which two justices had, or, but for the passing of this Act, might have exercised in such respect, under the lastly-mentioned Acts: Provided, that nothing herein shall abridge or affect any other power or jurisdiction of two justices of the peace, under such acts, or either of them.

Two justices not empowered to determine a contract with any Chinese or other immigrant,

but complaints may be adjudicated on by Agent-General, or Sub-Agent of Immigration, or any justice specially authorized.

Proviso.

II. And be it enacted, That on the determination by the Agent-General, or any sub-agent of immigration, or any specially appointed justice as aforesaid, of any contract with any such Chinese or other immigrant as aforesaid, or in case of the death of any such immigrant, it shall be lawful for the Governor, in his discretion, to cancel and remit the payment of any bond or bonds given, or to be given, under the Act of the Fifteenth Victoria, chapter thirty-nine, section sixteen, or any portion thereof, as may not have fallen due at the time of such determination of contract, or of death as aforesaid.

On the cancelling of any immigrant contract, or on death of immigrant, the Governor may cancel the bonds given under sec. 16 of 15 Vict. c. 39.

III. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Governor, on the recommendation of the Board of Immigration Correspondence, established by the Acts of the Fifteenth Victoria, chapter forty-one, and Sixteenth Victoria, chapter twenty-nine, by warrant or warrants on the Receiver-General, to direct the payment to the Agent-General of Immigration of a sum or sums of money, not exceeding, in the whole, one thousand pounds, out of the moneys raised, or to be raised, under the Fifteenth Victoria, chapter thirty-nine, to be laid out by such Agent-General in such manner as the said board may direct, for the purpose of settling or employing such Chinese immigrants as may be released from their contracts of service under the provisions of this or any other Act of the Legislature, in the cultivation of such products of the soil in the city of Kingston, or its vicinity, or in such other industrial pursuits, as may from time to time be approved of by the said board.

The sum of 1,000*l.* appropriated out of immigration fund to the settlement of Chinese immigrants released from their contracts.

IV. And be it enacted, That the fifty-seventh section of the Fifteenth Victoria, chapter thirty-eight, shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

Sect. 57 of 15 Vict. c. 33, repealed.

Trinidad.

APPENDIX No. 17.

(CHARLES ELLIOT.) TRINIDAD.—No. 24, 1854, 17th November.

An Ordinance enacted by the Governor of the Island of Trinidad, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Council of Government thereof,

To amend and consolidate the Laws with regard to Immigration.

Certain Ordinances repealed.

Be it enacted by his Excellency the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, That the several Ordinances mentioned in the Schedule A. to this Ordinance shall be and the same are hereby repealed, save and except so far as regards any appointment of Agent-General of Immigrants, or other appointment made under the said Ordinances or either of the same, and save also and except so far as regards all existing engagements to labour, and the payment of any duties now due and owing to Her Majesty, and all fines and penalties incurred under the said Ordinances or either of the same, all which engagements to labour may be enforced, and all which duties, fines, and penalties shall and may be sued for and recovered in the same manner as if this Ordinance had not been passed.

Saves entries to labour made in general register of immigrants.

II. Provided always, that all entries heretofore made in the General Register of Immigrants by the Agent-General of Immigrants shall be valid, and all engagements to labour, assignments of services and certificates heretofore made and granted, and all matters and things done under or by virtue of any or either of the said Ordinances, shall be and continue in force in the same manner as if this Ordinance had not been passed.

Interpretation clause.

III. And be it enacted, That throughout this Ordinance the following words and expressions shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them if not inconsistent with the context or subject matter, that is to say, words importing one number or one gender shall mean respectively both numbers and both genders; the expression "Her Majesty" shall mean Her Majesty, her heirs and successors; the expression "Immigration Agent" shall include any person appointed by the Governor to act as Immigration Agent; the word "immigrant" shall mean all immigrants already introduced or who may hereafter be introduced into this colony at the expense of this colony, or for whose introduction, although the same may be under private contract, the colony may hereafter pay bounty; the expression "Indian immigrant" shall mean any immigrant who shall have been introduced from the British possessions in the East Indies; the word "indenture" shall include all contracts of service declared to be valid by this Ordinance; the expression "indentured immigrant" shall mean any immigrant under such indenture who shall not have completed his industrial residence; and the word "employer" shall mean the proprietor or manager or other person having the direction of or the chief authority upon any estate, plantation, or farm on which any immigrant shall be employed.

Governor may proclaim ports from which immigration to this colony may be carried on.

IV. The Governor may from time to time by proclamation name the ports or places from which immigration on bounty into this colony shall be permitted, and the rates of bounty payable on the immigrants, and the conditions under which such immigration may be carried on.

Contracts of service entered into previous to arrival of immigrant, on the same being approved and countersigned by the Agent-General of Immigrants, to be held valid in this colony.

V. If any labourer arriving in this colony from Madeira, the Azores, the Canaries, or the Cape de Verde Islands, or from any part of Europe, or of the West Indies, or of the United States, or of the British provinces of North America, or from any port or place from which immigration on bounty shall have been permitted by such proclamation as aforesaid, shall before his arrival have contracted with any person to perform service in this colony, such contract shall when approved and countersigned by the Agent-General of Immigrants, and subject to such alterations as the said agent may with the consent of the parties have made therein, be valid in this colony for the full period named in such contracts, not exceeding three years, provided that except as herein-after mentioned, no such contract shall be so approved and countersigned unless the same shall purport to have been signed with the names or marks of the contracting parties, and attested by some Notary Public or British Consul, or by some other person approved by or acting under the authority of Her Majesty's Government, who shall declare that the parties entered into it voluntarily and with a full understanding of its meaning, nor unless the Immigration Agent shall be satisfied that the immigration has been carried on in accordance with all existing regulations of the Imperial or Colonial Government.

Proviso as to signing and attestation.

If contract is not signed and attested, immigration agent to report same to Governor.

VI. If the Immigration Agent shall not be so satisfied, or shall find the contract not to be so signed and attested as aforesaid, he shall report the same to the Governor, who may if he shall think fit, notwithstanding such report, direct the said Immigration Agent to approve and countersign such contract in manner aforesaid.

VII. The Agent-General of Immigrants shall continue to keep the General Register of Immigrants, and shall insert therein the names of all immigrants arriving in the colony, and shall number each of such immigrants by a particular number, commencing from the last number already borne on such Register, and proceeding by regular numerical progression, and shall distinguish therein under different heads the number, age, name, sex, and country of every such immigrant, and the time when and the place from which, and the vessel in which such immigrant shall have arrived, and the cost of the passage of such immigrant, and whether such immigrant is or is not entitled to a return passage, and the name of the employer or other person at whose expense such labourer shall have been introduced, and of the employer to whom he may be indentured on his arrival, and of the amount of monies, if any, which may have been advanced to such immigrant previous to his arrival in the colony, and which is to be repaid by him out of his wages in the colony.

General register of immigrants to be kept by Agent-General of Immigrants, and mode of keeping such register.

VIII. If any immigrants shall not on their arrival be immediately provided with employment it shall be the duty of the Agent-General of Immigrants, and he is hereby authorized to provide them with food and lodging at the expense of the colony, until the means of earning their own subsistence can be procured for them.

Agent-General to provide food, &c. for immigrants who shall not immediately on their arrival be employed.

IX. In case any immigrant shall before embarkation have consented to enter in the colony into a contract of service with any employer whom the Agent-General of Immigrants may on his arrival select for a period not exceeding three years, such consent being shown either by a certificate of the Government Immigration Agent at the port of embarkation, or by an agreement signed by the immigrant, and witnessed by such Notary, Consul, or other officer as aforesaid, the Agent-General of Immigrants may assign such immigrant to any employer whom he may think fit for such period as aforesaid: Provided always, that in making such assignment it shall not be lawful for the Agent-General of Immigrants to separate husbands from wives, nor children under the age of fifteen years from their parents or natural protectors: provided also, that no such assignment shall take effect until the employer and the Agent-General of Immigrants on behalf of such immigrant shall have executed an indenture in the form annexed (Schedule B.), or in such other form as may be approved by the Governor, nor until such employer shall have paid on such indenture the fee herein-after provided.

Agent-General may assign services of immigrants ariving into the colony under contract for service.

X. The Immigration Agent may at any time during the day-time enter upon any estate where any immigrants shall be employed, and may inspect the state and condition of such immigrants, and if requisite to require a muster of such immigrants, or any of them as may then be on the said estate, and shall twice at the least in every year visit and inspect every plantation or place whereon any such immigrant shall be employed.

Agent-General may enter on any estate where immigrants are employed for the purpose of inspecting them.

XI. Every employer of immigrants shall within the first five days of the month of January, April, July, and October in every year make and deliver to the Agent-General of Immigrants a return in such form as the Governor may from time to time approve, of all immigrants in his employ, or residing on the estate of such employer, during the preceding three months, together with the date and cause (as far as the same may be known) of all deaths, and the number of births of the children of such immigrants, and the names of all immigrants who may have left the estate during the quarter, and the Agent-General of Immigrants shall keep all such returns, and shall at the end of every year make an abstract of the numbers, increase and decrease of all such immigrants, which abstract shall be laid before the Council of Government.

Quarterly returns to be made by employers of immigrants to Agent-General according to forms to be approved by Governor.

XII. Every employer of immigrants who shall omit to make the return herein-before required, and every person who shall by any act or omission obstruct the Agent-General of Immigrants entering upon any plantation where he may reasonably suppose any immigrant to be employed, or in inquiring into the state and condition of any immigrant, shall on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding ten pounds for every such offence as the convicting justice shall direct.

Penalty for omitting to make return and for obstructing Agent-General.

XIII. In case it shall be made to appear to the Agent-General of Immigrants that any immigrant has been ill-used by his employer, or in case of neglect of duty or breach of contract on the part of such immigrant or employer, the Agent-General of Immigrants may by notice in the "Royal Gazette" cancel the indenture of such immigrant.

Agent-General may cancel indentures in cases of ill-usage, &c.

XIV. The Agent-General of Immigrants may also by such notice cancel the indenture of any immigrant in respect of whom any fee or other sum of money payable by his employer under this Ordinance shall remain unpaid for a period of one calendar month after it shall have become due.

Agent-General may cancel indentures on which fees or monies payable under this Ordinance have not been paid.

XV. The Governor may by such notice cancel the indenture of any immigrant if the Immigration Agent shall report that the accommodation provided for such immigrant is bad or insufficient, or if on any other ground he shall consider it requisite.

Governor may cancel indenture on report of Agent-General.

XVI. Any immigrant whose indenture shall have been cancelled under any of the above provisions may without his consent be re-indentured to some other employer by the Agent-General of Immigrants for any period not exceeding the then unexpired period of the indenture so cancelled.

Any immigrant whose indenture has been cancelled to be re-indentured for the unexpired period of his indenture.

XVII. When the bounty or passage money paid by the colony in respect of any immigrant shall not have exceeded nine pounds, and the Government shall not be bound to furnish any return passage to such immigrant, such immigrant shall be entitled after having resided three years in the colony to demand from the Agent-General of Immigrants a certificate of industrial residence, unless it shall be recorded in the office of such Agent-General, or shall otherwise appear to his satisfaction, that such immigrant has

Immigrants introduced at a cost not exceeding 9l. and not entitled to a return passage, at the expiration of three years to receive a certificate of industrial residence.

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deserted or been absent without lawful excuse from service, or been imprisoned under the sentence or by the order of any Court of Justice, or under the conviction of any justice or justices of the peace, for periods amounting in the whole to more than six days in the three years; and in such case such immigrant shall not be entitled to the said certificate until he shall have further served under indenture for the period or periods of such absence or desertion.

Services of Chinese immigrants may be assigned for a period not exceeding five years; but such immigrant may, one month before the expiration of each year of service, signify his wish to be transferred to some other employer.

Form of assignment and transfer.

XVIII. It shall be competent to the Agent-General of Immigrants to assign any Chinese immigrant on his arrival for a period not exceeding five years, according to the terms of any contract into which he shall have entered before his arrival in the colony, provided that one calendar month before the expiration of the first and every other year of such period the immigrant may require the said Agent to transfer him to some other employer whom such immigrant may select for the remainder of the said period, or on re-payment of all advances made to him before his arrival in the colony, and then remaining unpaid, and of three pounds per annum for every year wanting to complete five years' residence in this colony to release him absolutely from his indentures and give him a certificate of industrial residence: Provided also, that every such assignment and transfer as aforesaid shall be made by indenture as near as may be in the form contained in Schedule *B.*, or such other form as may be approved by the Governor, and such transfer shall be determinable at the request of the immigrant in like manner as the original assignment.

Periods for which Agent-General of Immigrants may indenture.

XIX. It shall be competent to the Agent-General of Immigrants to indenture any Indian immigrants who may have been introduced into this colony before the first day of January of the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, but who on the expiration of any engagement to labour entered into by such immigrant and which may be subsisting and in force at the passing of this Ordinance shall not have completed an actual residence of five years within this colony, for the periods following, that is to say, where such immigrant on the expiration of such engagement shall not have completed a residence of three years within this colony, such indenture shall be for such term as shall be sufficient to make up three years from the time of the arrival of such immigrant in this colony; but where such immigrant shall at the expiration of such engagement have completed an actual residence of three years or more but less than five years within this colony, then such indenture shall be for one year from the date of such indenture or such portion of a year as together with the time already elapsed since the arrival of such immigrant within this colony shall not exceed the term of five years from the day of such arrival: Provided always, that if any such immigrant who may have completed an actual residence within this colony of three years shall pay to such Agent-General a sum equal to the aggregate amount of five shillings sterling for every calendar month which at the time of the passing of this Ordinance or of the expiration of such engagement, if any, may be wanting to complete a residence of five years within this colony such immigrant shall not be indentured and shall be entitled to receive from the Agent-General of Immigrants a certificate of industrial residence.

Proviso.

Term for which immigrants arriving in this colony after Jan. 1854 may be indentured.

XX. Every Indian immigrant introduced into this colony after the first day of January of the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four shall be indentured by the Agent-General of Immigrants for the term of three years from the day of his arrival in this colony.

Immigrants under indenture for three years or under may, within one calendar month before the expiration of such term, on payment of a certain sum demand a certificate of industrial residence, &c.

XXI. Every Indian immigrant who may be indentured as aforesaid for the term of three years, or for any term sufficient to make up the term of three years as herein-before mentioned, and who shall have completed his service under such indenture, may at any time not less than one calendar month before the expiration of such term and on payment to the Agent-General of Immigrants of the sum of six pounds demand a certificate of industrial residence, or he may at any time not less than one calendar month before the expiration of such term signify to his then employer and to the Agent-General of Immigrants his desire to be indentured to some other employer whom he may select and who may be willing to employ him for a period of one year from the determination of his existing indenture, and it shall be competent for the Agent-General of Immigrants to re-indenture such immigrant accordingly, and if the immigrant shall fail to make such payment or to require such re-indenture his original indenture shall be deemed to be extended for one year.

Immigrants may, on paying for unexpired term of service, obtain a certificate of industrial residence.

XXII. Any Indian immigrant whose original indenture shall have been so extended or who shall have been re-indentured as herein-before mentioned may at any time not less than one calendar month before the expiration of the year for which his original indenture shall have been so extended or for which he shall have been re-indentured, and on payment to the Agent-General of the sum of three pounds or the sum of five shillings for every calendar month which may be wanting to make up a residence of five years within the colony demand a certificate of industrial residence or may require such re-indenture as aforesaid, and if he shall fail to make such payment or to require such re-indenture his original indenture shall be deemed to be again extended for one year.

Chinese immigrants on completing industrial residence of five years may demand a certificate of industrial residence.

Proviso.

XXIII. Any Chinese or Indian immigrant who shall have completed an industrial residence of five years within the colony may demand of the Agent-General of Immigrants a certificate of industrial residence, provided that in case of immigrants under twelve years of age residence in the colony shall for the purpose of computing such industrial residence be equivalent to residence under indenture.

XXIV. Every immigrant who shall have received or shall be entitled to such certificate shall be at liberty to abandon service and may demand from the Agent-General of Immigrants a passport, which as well as the said certificate shall be signed by the Agent-General and given gratis.

Immigrants receiving certificate of industrial residence may abandon service, &c.

XXV. No immigrant shall depart from the colony without such passport, and every master or other person in charge of any vessel who shall knowingly receive or harbour on board of such vessel any immigrant who shall not have duly obtained such passport, with the intention of carrying him out of this colony, and every person who shall aid or abet the departure of any such immigrant shall on conviction thereof before a justice of the peace forfeit and pay such penalty not exceeding twenty pounds as to the justice shall seem fit for each and every such immigrant whom he shall have so received, harboured, aided, or abetted.

Passports to be granted to immigrants leaving the colony.

Penalty on masters of vessels for taking away immigrants without passport.

XXVI. Any immigrant who shall have resided three years in the colony shall be presumed in the absence of proof to the contrary to have served under indenture for that period; but the non-production of a certificate of industrial residence shall be *primâ facie* evidence that he has not served under indenture for a longer period.

Residence of three years presumption of service under indenture, but non-production of certificate primâ facie evidence of no service.

XXVII. Every Indian immigrant introduced into this colony at any time subsequent to the first day of January of the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four under an agreement reserving to him a right to a return passage shall be entitled to such return passage on the completion of a residence in this colony of ten years and on payment by such immigrant to the Colonial Treasurer of such sum not exceeding the sum of seven pounds five shillings and tenpence sterling as the Governor may from time to time by proclamation direct and appoint as a contribution by such immigrant towards the expense of such return passage; and every immigrant introduced into this colony at any time before the first day of January of the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four under an agreement reserving to him the right to a return passage shall be entitled to such return passage at the public expense on the completion of an industrial residence within this colony of five years under a written engagement to labour, or indenture, or the payment of monthly duties or other monies in lieu thereof.

Indian immigrants introduced subsequently to 1st Jan. 1854, to be entitled to a return passage after a residence of ten years, and on payment of certain monies towards expenses of such return passages.

Provision in case of immigrants introduced prior to Jan. 1854.

XXVIII. The Governor may authorize the Agent-General of Immigrants to grant a certificate of exemption from industrial residence to any immigrant who from sickness, accident, or other cause shall appear to him incapable of labour, and may send any such Indian immigrant back at the expense of the colony to the port in India from which he emigrated.

Provision in case of sickness or accident to immigrants.

XXIX. The Governor may by notice in the "Royal Gazette" from time to time make regulations respecting the form in which application shall be made by persons desirous of having immigrants indentured to them, and respecting the lodging, medicine, medical aid, food, and clothing to be provided for immigrants, and the periods within which the wages of such immigrants shall be paid, and respecting any other matters necessary for carrying this Ordinance into effect, and a copy of such regulations shall be laid before the Council of Government at its next meeting.

Governor to make rules and regulations respecting immigrants.

XXX. Every indentured immigrant in the absence of any express agreement to the contrary and except in case of illness shall be bound to work upon or in the service of the plantation mentioned in his indenture for nine hours of each day, Sundays, Good Friday, New Year's Day, and Christmas Day only excepted: Provided always, that during his inability to labour on account of illness every such immigrant shall in the absence of any express agreement to the contrary receive instead of wages such allowances as the state of his health may require or as may be prescribed by any regulation issued or to be issued by the Governor.

Indentured immigrants to labour on plantation mentioned in his indenture for nine hours daily.

Proviso.

XXXI. Every indentured immigrant who during the continuance of his indenture shall without lawful excuse absent himself from his work, shall forfeit his claim to all wages and allowances for the time during which he shall so absent himself, and on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace shall for every such offence be imprisoned in the royal gaol or nearest authorized place of confinement with hard labour for such term not exceeding fourteen days as such justice shall direct.

Penalty on immigrant absenting himself without lawful excuse.

XXXII. Where it shall be made to appear to the Agent-General of Immigrants that any indentured immigrant has absented himself without lawful excuse from the service of his employer, or has been imprisoned under the sentence or by the order of any court of justice or under the conviction of any justice or justices of the peace for any period or periods of time amounting in the whole to more than six days, it shall be lawful for the Agent-General of Immigrants to endorse on the indenture of such immigrant a note of the time or times during which such immigrant shall have so absented himself without lawful excuse, or been so imprisoned, and such immigrant shall on the expiration of the term of his indenture be bound to work for his then employer for an additional time equal to the time or the whole of the times so endorsed on such indenture, and the term of service mentioned in the indenture shall not be deemed to be completed until he shall have served such employer for such additional time.

Where immigrant has absented himself or been imprisoned for more than six days during the time of his indenture, Agent-General of Immigrants to endorse the same on indenture.

XXXIII. The time during which any immigrant shall have been under examination or committed for trial for any offence of which he shall be afterwards convicted shall be deemed an absence without lawful excuse under this Ordinance.

Time during which immigrant is committed for trial shall be an absence without excuse.

XXXIV. If the employer of any indentured immigrant shall die, or if the plantation mentioned in the indenture of such immigrant shall be alienated or demised, the person

Where employer of immigrant shall die, &c., persons to whom

plantation shall revert shall be entitled to services of such immigrant.

who shall become entitled to such plantation shall be entitled to the services of such immigrant during the residue of the term of his indenture: Provided always, that for the purpose of deciding such disputes as are herein-before mentioned between an immigrant and his employer, the person who is actually in possession of such plantation shall be deemed to be entitled thereto: But the services of any indentured immigrant may be transferred with his consent to any other plantation belonging to the same employer: Provided that a memorandum of such transfer shall be endorsed on his indenture and signed by the Agent-General of Immigrants.

Power to Agent-General of Immigrants or any police constable to stop without warrant any immigrant off the plantation to which he has been indentured, &c.

XXXV. It shall be lawful for the Agent-General of Immigrants or any police constable to stop without a warrant any African, Indian, or Chinese immigrant not being on the plantation in respect of which his services may be due, and also for the owner or occupier of any land or house to stop without a warrant any such immigrant found upon or about such land or house, and if such immigrant being so required shall fail to produce such certificate of exemption or of industrial residence as are herein-before mentioned or a written ticket of leave signed by his employer, to take such immigrant forthwith before some neighbouring justice of the peace, and such justice shall forthwith inquire into the case, and unless he shall be satisfied that such immigrant has completed such residence, or obtained such exemption as aforesaid, or that he is absent from the plantation in respect of which his services shall be due with the leave of his employer, shall make order for his immediate committal with hard labour to such place of confinement as aforesaid for a term not exceeding fourteen days.

Indentured immigrant may be apprehended without warrant if found during ordinary hours of work off plantation to which he may be indentured unless provided with a ticket-of-leave.

XXXVI. It shall be lawful for the employer of any indentured immigrant or for any servant of such employer, or for any police constable to apprehend without warrant such immigrant if found during the ordinary hours of work beyond the limits of the plantation in respect of which his services shall be due, without a written ticket of leave signed by his employer, and to cause such immigrant to be taken back to such plantation.

Penalty on immigrant for fraudulently pretending he has completed an industrial residence, or for lending or counterfeiting certificate, ticket-of-leave, or passport.

XXXVII. Any immigrant who shall falsely and fraudulently pretend that he has completed his industrial residence or who shall use, give, or lend any certificate, passport, or ticket of leave for any fraudulent purpose, or who shall wilfully counterfeit or alter any such certificate, passport, or ticket of leave shall on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace be imprisoned in such place of confinement as aforesaid with hard labour for such term not exceeding three calendar months as the convicting justice shall direct.

Penalty on masters of vessel receiving or harbouring on board any indentured immigrant who shall not be provided with ticket-of-leave.

XXXVIII. Every master or other person in charge of any vessel, drogher, or boat who shall receive or harbour on board of such vessel, drogher, or boat with the intention of carrying from any part of this colony to any other part of the colony any indentured immigrant who shall not have obtained a written ticket of leave signed by his employer, or who shall not be going to or returning from any court of justice on the subpœna or summons of such court or of any justice of the peace, shall on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace forfeit and pay such penalty not exceeding twenty pounds as to the convicting justice shall seem fit, for each and every such immigrant whom he shall have so received or harboured.

Immigrants on completing their term of industrial residence to be entitled to receive from their employer a certificate to that effect.

XXXIX. Every employer of any indentured immigrant shall on the expiration of the term of industrial residence of such immigrant deliver to such immigrant on his request a certificate under the hand of such employer, that such immigrant has completed the term of his industrial residence, and every employer who shall refuse or fail to deliver such certificate to any immigrant when lawfully requested so to do shall on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace forfeit to such immigrant such sum not exceeding ten pounds as to the convicting justice shall seem fit.

Penalty on persons harbouring or employing immigrants indentured to any other person.

XL. Any person who shall knowingly harbour or receive into or continue in his employment any immigrant then under indenture to any other person shall on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace forfeit and pay to Her Majesty such sum not exceeding twenty pounds as to such justice shall seem fit, and shall pay to the employer the sum of ten shillings for each day during which such immigrant shall have been so harboured or employed, and complaint of such harbouring or employing may be made by the immigration agent or by the employer of such immigrant before any justice of the peace at any time within twelve calendar months after any day on which such immigrant shall have been so harboured or employed.

Fees payable to colonial treasury on indentures for service.

XLI. There shall be paid to the Colonial Treasurer by the employer of every immigrant during the period of his industrial residence the following fees, viz., on the execution of any indenture two pounds; and at the commencement of the second and every subsequent year of service under such indenture, or any extension thereof, the like sum of two pounds; and where any such immigrant shall, on his own request, be indentured to any new employer, the sum of three pounds; and all fees payable in respect of any immigrant at the commencement of the second or any subsequent year of service under such indenture shall be taken to be payable, and shall be paid, unless the employer shall prove to the satisfaction of the Agent-General of Immigrants that such immigrant was dead or had absconded from the estate of such employer before the expiration of the previous year.

Governor to provide stamps, &

XLII. The Governor shall from time to time make order for providing proper and sufficient stamps for expressing and denoting the fees payable on such indentures, and such stamps shall be kept in the custody of the Colonial Treasurer; and on the payment to the Colonial Treasurer of any fee payable on any indenture, the Colonial Treasurer shall cause the paper on which such indenture shall be written or printed to be stamped with the stamp

denoting the amount paid; and the Colonial Treasurer shall in a book to be provided for that purpose enter the amount of all fees paid to him together with the number of the indenture in respect of which such fee shall be paid and the date of such payment.

In cases where advances have been made to immigrants, employers are to pay one dollar monthly to Agent-General, and may deduct a certain amount of wages monthly for purpose of repaying such advances.

XLIII. The employer of any indentured immigrant shall pay to the Immigration Agent by monthly instalments of one dollar each, the amount mentioned in such indenture as advanced to such immigrant previous to his embarkation, and shall be entitled to deduct the same by (weekly or monthly) instalments from the wages of such immigrant, and the monies so paid to the Immigration Agent shall be paid by him to the Colonial Treasurer for the benefit of the person by whom the advances shall have been made.

Monies payable to Colonial Treasurer to be a first charge on plantation on which immigrants may be indentured.

XLIV. All monies payable to the Colonial Treasurer in respect of any immigrant under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be a first charge on the plantation in respect of which such immigrant shall have been indentured; and all penalties and forfeitures imposed by this Ordinance may be sued for and recovered by the Agent-General of Immigrants.

No writ of *ca. sa.*, &c. to issue against any indentured immigrant.

XLV. It shall not be lawful to sue out a writ of *Capias ad Satisfaciendum* or any execution against the person of any indentured immigrant on any judgment to be recovered in any action of contract against such immigrant in the Supreme Civil Court, or in the Court of Complaints, or before the Commissioner of the Petty Civil Court, or any stipendiary justice of the peace; and if any such indentured immigrant shall be arrested or committed to gaol on any writ of *Capias ad Satisfaciendum* or execution against the person of such immigrant on any such judgment, it shall be lawful for any Judge of the Supreme Civil Court, or the Commissioner or stipendiary justice before whom such judgment shall have been recovered, on the production of a certificate under the hand of the Agent-General of Immigrants, or on its being otherwise made to appear to him that such immigrant is an indentured immigrant, to make order in a summary manner, without any notice to the person at whose suit such writ or execution shall have been sued out, for the immediate discharge of such immigrant, and thereupon such immigrant shall be forthwith discharged from custody under such writ or execution.

In proceedings by immigrants and employers no fees payable.

XLVI. On all proceedings before any justice of the peace by any indentured immigrant against his employer for the recovery of wages, or for the recovery of any penalty under this Ordinance, or by any employer against any indentured immigrant for breach of his contract or any violation or neglect of duty, no fees shall be demandable of or payable by such indentured immigrant or by such employer in respect of any summons or other process to be had on such proceedings.

Signature of Agent-General of Immigrants to be sufficient proof without the same being proved.

XLVII. On any proceeding before any Court of Justice or justices of the peace it shall not be necessary to prove the handwriting of the Agent-General of Immigrants or any other party to any indenture purporting to be signed by such Agent-General, or to any certificate purporting to be signed by such Agent-General; but every such indenture shall be admitted in evidence without any proof of the execution of the same or the signatures affixed thereto.

Passed in Council this seventeenth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

RICHARD D. CADIZ,
Clerk of Council.

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SCHEDULE A.

Ordinance No. 5, 1850.—For the encouragement of immigration and the promotion of the industry of immigrants.

Ordinance No. 10, 1850.—For the promotion of the industry of captured Africans introduced into this colony.

Ordinance No. 11, 1851.—For encouraging immigrants to enter into contracts for a further term of industrial residence within this colony.

Ordinance No. 11, 1852.—For the further encouragement of immigrants to enter into contracts for further terms of industrial residence.

Ordinance No. 12, 1852.—For the better regulation of immigrants.

SCHEDULE B.

This indenture made the day of 185 , between H. M., Immigration Agent of this colony, on behalf of A. B., immigrant labourer, &c., of the one part, and E. F. of in this colony, of the other part. Witnesseth that in virtue of the Ordinance No. of 1854, and in consideration of the agreements on the part of the said E. F. herein-after contained, he the said H. M. doth hereby bind and indent the said A. B. to the said E. F. for the term of three years to be computed from the date hereof, and doth hereby agree with the said E. F. his heirs and assigns, that the said A. B. shall during the said term or the continuance of these presents truly and faithfully serve the said E. F., his heirs and assigns, as a labourer on plantation according to the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony: And the said E. F. doth hereby agree with the said H. M. that the said E. F. shall, during the said term or the continuance of these presents, provide the said A. B. with suitable and sufficient lodging, medicine, and medical attendance, in conformity with the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be

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made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony; and also shall pay wages to the said A. B. during the next three lunar months at the rate of per diem, and after the expiration of the said term of three months, at the same rate which may be at the time paid to the labourers not under a written agreement working on the said plantation.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands.

H. M.
E. F.

APPENDIX No. 18.

(CHARLES ELLIOT.) TRINIDAD.—No. 7, 1855, 9th March.

An Ordinance enacted by the Governor of the Island of Trinidad, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Council of Government thereof, to encourage Immigrants to enter into Contracts for further Terms of Industrial Residence, and to confirm certain Agreements of Service already entered into by Immigrants.

Preamble.

WHEREAS an Ordinance was passed in Council on the Seventeenth day of November in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, entitled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Laws with regard to Immigration:" And whereas it is expedient to give encouragement to Indian immigrants introduced into this colony at the public expense previously to the first day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, to enter into contracts for a further term of industrial residence within this colony: Be it enacted by His Excellency the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, That where any Indian immigrant who shall have been introduced into this colony at any time before the First day of January, in the year One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and who shall have already completed or who shall hereafter complete an industrial residence of five years within this colony, shall be willing to enter into an engagement to labour for any employer, it shall be lawful for the Agent-General of Immigrants of this colony, if he shall see fit, and on payment to such immigrant by such employer of such premium or bounty, if any, as may be agreed upon between such immigrant and such employer, to indenture such immigrant to such employer for such time not exceeding twelve calendar months as may be agreed upon between such immigrant and such employer, and every such indenture may be according to the form in the schedule to this Ordinance or to the like effect.

Immigrants introduced before the first day of Jan. 1854, after completing an industrial residence, may be indentured by Agent-General of Immigrants.

II. And whereas since the passing of the said Ordinance of the Seventeenth day of November, One thonsand eight hundred and fifty-four, divers Indian immigrants introduced into this colony at the public expense before the First day of January, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and who had previously to the passing of the said Ordinance completed their respective terms of industrial residence in this colony, have since the passing of the said Ordinance entered into agreements with divers planters to labour for the term of twelve calendar months from the respective days of the dates of such agreements, and such agreements have been approved and are attested by the Agent-General of Immigrants or one of the wardens of this colony, and a premium or bounty of not less than forty shillings has been paid to every immigrant entering into such agreement by or on behalf of the employer with whom such agreement has been made: And whereas it is expedient to remove all doubts as to the validity of such agreements: Be it enacted, That every agreement to labour made between any Indian immigrant and any employer purporting to be made on any day between the Seventeenth day of November, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four and the passing of this Ordinance, and which agreement shall bear the signature of the Agent-General of immigrants, or shall bear the signature of any warden and be approved in writing by the Agent-General of Immigrants, shall be good and binding to all intents and purposes.

Certain agreements for labour entered into between 17th Nov. 1854 and passing of this Ordinance to be good.

III. And be it enacted, That every indenture to be made under the authority of this Ordinance, and every such agreement as herein-before mentioned bearing the signature of or approved by the Agent-General of immigrants, shall be deemed and taken to be an indenture, and every immigrant by or on whose behalf such indenture or agreement shall be made, shall during the continuance of the term mentioned in such indenture or agreement, be deemed and taken to be an indentured immigrant within the meaning of the said Ordinance of the Seventeenth day of November aforesaid.

Such indentures and agreements to be deemed indentures under Ordinance of 17th Nov. 1854.

Registration.

IV. And be it enacted, That the Agent-General of Immigrants shall enter in the register of immigrants under separate heads the name of every Indian immigrant whom such Agent-General of immigrants shall indenture under the provisions of this Ordinance, or who shall have entered into any such agreement to labour, since the Seventeenth day of November, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and before the passing of this Ordinance, and shall distinguish under separate columns the name of the vessel by which, and the time at which such immigrant shall have come into this colony, and the day on which and the time for which he shall have been so indentured or shall have entered into such agreement.

Proof of indentures or agreements.

V. And be it enacted, That every indenture purporting to be made by the Agent-General of Immigrants under the authority of this Ordinance, and every agreement entered into by any Indian immigrant since the Seventeenth day of November, One thousand eight

hundred and fifty-four, and before the passing of this Ordinance, and which shall be so subscribed or approved by such Agent-General of Immigrants, shall be received in evidence before all Courts and justices of the peace without further proof of the execution of the same, and as *primâ facie* proof of the facts stated therein, and it shall not be necessary in any case to prove the signature of such Agent-General or of the warden to any such indenture or agreement.

Passed in Council this Ninth day of March, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

(Signed) RICHARD D. CADIZ,
Clerk of Council.

TRINIDAD.

THIS Indenture, made the day of 185 , between Henry Mitchell, Agent-General of Immigrants of this colony, on behalf of Indian immigrant, No. introduced into this colony before the First day of January, in the year of our Lord 1854, of the one part, and of in this colony, of the other part: Witnesseth that in virtue of Ordinance No. 7, of 1855, and in consideration of the agreement on the part of the said herein-after contained, he the said Henry Mitchell doth hereby bind and indenture the said to the said for the term of one year to be computed from the date hereof, and doth hereby agree with the said his heirs and assigns, that the said shall during the said term truly and faithfully serve the said his heirs and assigns, as a labourer on Plantation according to the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony: And the said doth hereby agree with the said Henry Mitchell that he the said his heirs and assigns, shall during the said term provide the said with suitable and sufficient lodging, medicine, and medical attendance, in conformity with the laws and regulations made or hereafter to be made concerning immigrant labourers in this colony, and also will pay wages monthly to the said at the same rate which may be at the time paid to the labourers not under a written engagement working on the said Plantation.

(Signed)

APPENDIX No. 19.

TRINIDAD.—No. 11, 1856, 1st October.

AN ORDINANCE enacted by the Governor of the Island of Trinidad, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Council of Government thereof, for promoting the Education and Industrial Training of the Children of Indian Immigrants.

(CHARLES ELLIOT.)

WHEREAS a school for the education and industrial training of the children of Indian immigrants has been established in the ward of Tacarigua, by and at the expense of Frederick William Burnley, Esquire, other like schools may be established by voluntary contributions in other parts of the colony, and it is expedient that use should be made of such institutions: Be it enacted by his Excellency the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, as follows:

1. It shall and may be lawful for the Governor, upon application made to him by the person establishing, or the directors or managers of any such school, to direct the Agent-General of Immigrants and the Inspector of Schools, or either of them, to examine and report to him upon its condition and regulations, and any such school as shall appear to the satisfaction of the Governor and shall be certified under his hand to be efficient for its purpose, shall be held to be "an Indian training school" under the provisions of this Ordinance.

2. It shall be lawful for the Agent-General of Immigrants and the Inspector of Schools to visit from time to time any school which shall have been so certified, and if upon the report of either of them the Governor shall think proper to withdraw such certificate, and certify such withdrawal under his hand to the directors and managers of the said school, the same shall forthwith cease to be an Indian training school within the meaning of this Ordinance.

3. It shall be lawful for the Agent-General of Immigrants to direct any child or other descendant of any Indian immigrant introduced into this colony at the public expense, with the consent of the father, if living and resident in this island, or any such child being an orphan or abandoned by his parents, to be sent to any such Indian training school; provided that no such child shall be so sent who shall be above the age of ten years.

4. That no child who shall be so sent to any such Indian training school shall be liable to be retained at such school after he shall have attained the age of fifteen years, except with his consent.

5. Any person, who shall knowingly entice any such child to abscond or shall knowingly harbour any such child who may have absconded from any such school to which he shall

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have been sent by the Agent-General of Immigrants, shall, on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace, forfeit and pay for every such offence such sum not less than forty shillings nor more than ten pounds as to the convicting justice shall seem fit.

6. It shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, on complaint made that there is reasonable cause to believe that any such child is detained or harboured by any person, to order that a warrant do issue to search for such child, and it shall be lawful for the police constable to whom such warrant shall be directed, or any other person acting in his aid, to enter any house or other premises where such child may reasonably be suspected to be, and to deliver such child, if found, into the charge of the director or master of such training school.

7. It shall be lawful for the Governor to defray out of the public monies appropriated to immigration for the cost of the maintenance and clothing of any child who may be sent to any such training school by the order of the Agent-General of Immigrants, during the time that he may remain at such school, such sum not exceeding ten pounds per annum for every such child as to the Governor shall seem fit.

8. That the word child throughout this Ordinance shall extend to and include female as well as male children.

Passed in Council this first day of October, in the year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

(Signed) RICHARD D. CADIZ.
Clerk of Council.

Grenada.

APPENDIX No. 20.

(F. Y. CHECKLEY, President.)

No. 480.

AN ACT to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and the Promotion of the Industry of Immigrants.

[24th October 1853.

Preamble. Recites 11th clause of Act, No. 191.

WHEREAS by the eleventh clause of an Act passed in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, entitled "An Act for regulating the relative Rights and Duties of Masters and Servants," it is enacted that "no contract for service, not made within this colony and in the land of the colony, shall be valid or binding on the parties thereto, or any of them, unless such contract shall be in writing, and shall be made and entered into by the person who is therein bound to perform such service, whilst such person is on the land and within the limits of the kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or of some other part of Europe, or of the United States of America, or of some British possession in North America, or of the West Indies; and no contract for service shall be valid or binding on either of the parties thereto, for any longer term than the period of one year from the time when the service under such contract shall be commenced, according to the terms of the contract;"

Clause I. 11th clause of recited Act repealed.

And whereas it is desirable to repeal the said clause of the said Act, Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, the Council, and the Assembly of the island of Grenada and its dependencies, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the said recited clause of the said Act shall be, and the same is, hereby repealed,

Preamble. Recites 3rd clause of Act, No. 139.

And whereas by the third clause of an Act, passed in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, entitled "An Act to continue an Act for granting an aid to Her Majesty, to be applied for the purposes of immigration, to grant a bounty on the importation of certain agricultural labourers into Granada, and to make provision for defraying the expenses of carrying captured Africans to Grenada, and for their support and maintenance there until location," it is enacted that certain bounties shall be given to the importer into this colony, from the Azores, Madeira, the Canaries, and the Cape de Verde islands, of such labourers who shall enter into an indenture or written contract made or ratified before or in the presence of the stipendiary justices of this colony, to work on any estate, for the space of one year;" And whereas it is now expedient to repeal the said third clause of such last-mentioned Act; Be it therefore enacted, that the said third clause of the said last-mentioned Act shall be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Clause II. 3rd clause of recite Act repealed.

Clause III. Repeals Act, No. 188.

And be it enacted, that an Act passed by the Legislature of Grenada, on the twenty-fifth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, entitled "An Act to encourage the Introduction of Labourers from the United States of America and the British North American Provinces," shall be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Preamble.

And whereas it is expedient that provision should be made for the encouragement, under certain limitations, of the introduction in this colony of Chinese, Coolie, and other immigrants (other than immigrants from the coast of Africa), and that proper rules and regulations should be established by law for the government and for promoting the industry of all such immigrants: Be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, from time to time, to nominate and appoint a fit and proper person, to be styled "the Agent-General of Immigrants," and it shall be lawful also for the Governor to dismiss such Agent-General of Immigrants at any time, and appoint another in his place.

Clause IV. Governor authorized to appoint and dismiss Agent-General of Immigrants.

Clause V. Salary of Agent-General of Immigrants.

And be it enacted, that the said Agent-General of Immigrants shall be paid and receive a salary at and after the rate of one hundred and fifty pounds per annum, payable quarterly by the Public Treasurer from and out of any moneys now raised or hereafter to be raised for immigration purposes, to be called "The Immigration Fund," on the warrant of the Governor.

Clause VI. Agent-General to keep a general register of immigrants.

And be it enacted, that the Agent-General of Immigrants shall keep a register, to be called "The Register-General of Immigrants," and shall insert therein the names of all such immigrants who shall hereafter be introduced into this colony at the public expense, or upon whose importation a bounty may be paid by this colony, and shall number each of such immigrants by a particular number, commencing with the number one and proceeding by regular numerical progression, and shall distinguish therein, under different heads, the number, name, age, sex, and country of every such immigrant, and the time when, the place from which, and the vessel in which such immigrant shall have arrived, together with the cost of the passage of such immigrant, also whether such immigrant is or not entitled to a return passage, also the name of the employer or other person at whose expense such

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labourer shall have been introduced, and the amount of moneys, if any, which may have been advanced to such immigrant previous to his embarkation, and which are to be repaid by such immigrant out of his wages in the colony.

Clause VII. Agent-General of Immigrants to visit estates quarterly and procure account of increase and decrease and lay abstract of same before Legislature once in every year.

And be it enacted, that the Agent-General of Immigrants shall, four times in every year at the least, visit and inspect the plantations or places whereon any such immigrants aforesaid shall be located, and shall procure a true and correct account of any and every increase and decrease in the numbers of such immigrants; and the manager or other person in charge of every plantation in respect of which the services of any such immigrant shall be assigned or transferred, shall, and he is hereby authorized and required to give to such Agent-General of Immigrants, four times in the year, a quarterly return of the number of all such immigrants as aforesaid, together with the date and cause (as far as the same may be known) of all deaths, and the number of births, of the children of such immigrants; and the Agent-General of Immigrants shall insert all such increase and decrease of immigrants in the said Register-General of Immigrants, and, at the end of every year, an abstract of the numbers, increase, and decrease of all such immigrants, shall be made by the Agent-General of Immigrants, to be laid before the Legislature.

Clause VIII. Interpretation of words.

Be it enacted, that, throughout this Act, the words and expressions herein-after mentioned shall have and bear the following meanings, that is to say, the word "immigrant" shall include all immigrants who may be hereafter introduced into this colony at the public expense, or upon whose importation any bounty shall be paid into this colony; the words "new immigrant" shall include all such immigrants, so long as they shall not have completed an industrial residence within this colony; the term "old immigrant" shall include all such immigrants who shall have completed such industrial residence; the words "industrial residence" shall be taken to mean an actual residence, within the colony, of five years, under a written engagement to labour for hire, such residence to be computed from the arrival of such immigrant, or in the absence of such engagement, the actual payment of the monthly duty herein-after mentioned for any part of the said term of five years during which such immigrant shall not have been under such engagement to labour; the word "planter" shall include the owner or tenant in possession, or other person having the charge or management of any sugar, cocoa, coffee, or cotton estate; the word "employer" shall include the owner and manager, or the person having the direction of, and the chief authority upon any such estate on which any immigrant shall be employed, and every word importing the singular number only shall extend and be applied to several persons or things, as well as one person or thing, and every word importing the masculine gender shall extend and be applied to females as well as males.

Clause IX. Immigrant to continue his services on any estate to which he may be assigned or transferred.

And be it enacted, that every such immigrant whose services may be assigned or transferred, shall be bound to continue to work on the plantation in respect to which his services shall have been so assigned or transferred, notwithstanding that the person to whom his services may have been assigned or transferred shall die, or the plantation in respect of which such services shall have been assigned shall be sold or demised, and in every such case the right to the services of such immigrant, during the residue of the said term of five years, shall rest in the person or persons to whom such plantation shall be devised, or descend, or be sold or demised.

Clause X. Duties on assignment or transfer to be a first charge on plantation.

And be it enacted, that all duties by this Act made payable to Her Majesty in respect of the services of any such immigrant, whose services may be assigned or transferred, under this Act, shall be a first charge on the plantation in respect of which such services shall be so assigned or transferred.

Clause XI. Deduction of allowances.

And be it enacted, that the manager or other person in charge of the plantation in respect of which the services of any such immigrant shall be assigned or transferred, shall be bound to deduct, by monthly instalments of four shillings each, from the wages of such immigrant, the amount mentioned in such assignment as advanced to such immigrant previous to his embarkation, such deduction not to commence until three months after the location of such immigrant, and the moneys so paid over shall be paid by the Agent-General of Immigrants to the Colonial Treasurer, for the benefit of the person by whom such Amount shall have been advanced.

Clause XII. All contracts to be computed from the day of landing to be in writing, and signed by labourers.

And be it enacted, that all contracts made and entered into out of this colony, with any labourer (not being an African), for the performance of any labour or service in agriculture, within this colony, for the term of five years, to be computed from the day of the landing of such labourer in this colony, shall be binding on the labourer entering into the same; Provided always, that every such contract be reduced into writing, and signed by the labourer entering into the same.

Clause XIII. The enforcement of contracts under this Act and Act No. 141 vested in stipendiary and other justices.

And be it enacted, that every such immigrant who shall be introduced into this colony, as aforesaid, shall, so long as such contract of service shall remain in force, be taken to be a servant within the meaning of the Act passed on the twelfth day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, and intituled "An Act for regulating the relative Rights and Duties of Masters and Servants;" and the jurisdiction for the enforcement of all contracts made and entered into under this present Act shall (except as herein-after is mentioned) be vested in the stipendiary and other justices of the colony, who shall have and exercise such and the same power in respect of any contract made under this Act as are vested in them by the said Act of the twelfth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven.

Clause XIV. Assignment of services.

And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Agent-General of Immigrants to assign the services of any such immigrant who may be hereafter introduced into this colony, as

aforesaid, to such person and in respect of such plantation, as to the Governor may seem fit, for the space of five years, to be computed from the day of the arrival of such immigrant in this colony, and every such assignment of services shall be according to the Form A. in the Schedule to this Act, and shall be signed by the Agent-General of Immigrants.

Clause XV. Immigrant may determine his service on certain conditions.

And be it enacted, that if any such immigrant shall be desirous of determining the assignment of his services on the expiration of the first or other current year after his arrival in this colony, it shall be lawful for the Agent-General of Immigrants, on the application of such immigrant, to make order, in writing, for the determination of such assignment of services at the expiration of the then current year, on the payment of a sum equal to three pounds for every year which may remain unexpired and to come of the said term of five years, and thereupon the Agent-General of Immigrants shall grant a certificate of discharge to such immigrant, which certificate shall be according to the Form B. in the Schedule to this Act.

Clause XVI. Agent-General of Immigrants at request of immigrant may transfer assignment of services.

And be it enacted, that if, after the expiration of the first or other current year after his arrival in this colony, any such immigrant shall be desirous of having his services transferred to some other plantation than that in respect of which his services shall have been assigned, it shall be lawful for the Agent-General of Immigrants to make order in writing for determining the original assignment of the services of such immigrant, and to transfer the services of such immigrant for the residue of the said term of five years to such person, and in respect of such plantation as such immigrant may select, which transfer may be according to the Form C. in the Schedule to this Act, and shall be signed by the Agent-General of Immigrants; and in every case there shall be payable to Her Majesty by the person to whom such services may be so transferred, the sum of two pounds for the first year for which such services shall be so transferred, which sum shall be paid to the Agent-General of Immigrants at the time of the execution of such transfer, and the annual sum of one pound for every subsequent year of such services, which sum shall be paid yearly in advance to the Agent-General of Immigrants, by the person in possession of the plantation to which such services shall have been so transferred.

Clause XVII. Duty on assignment of services.

And be it enacted, that upon every such assignment, there shall be payable to Her Majesty for every such immigrant whose services may be so assigned, the sum of two pounds for the first year for which such services shall be assigned, which sum shall be paid to the Agent-General of Immigrants at the time of the execution of such assignment, and the annual sum of one pound for every subsequent year of such services, which annual sum shall be paid yearly in advance to the Agent-General of Immigrants, by the person in possession of the plantation in respect of which such services shall have been so assigned.

Clause XVIII. Governor may determine assignment and transfer the same.

And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, in any case where he shall see fit, to determine such assignment, and to transfer the services of such Chinese or other immigrant to some other person, and in respect of some other plantation for the residue yet unexpired and to come of the said term of five years, and such transfer shall be in writing, signed by the Agent-General of Immigrants, and the person to whom such services shall be so transferred shall be bound to pay to Her Majesty the sum of twenty shillings, which sum shall be paid to the Agent-General of Immigrants at the time of the execution of such transfer, and the annual sum of twenty shillings for any subsequent year of such services, which annual sum shall be paid yearly in advance to the Agent-General of Immigrants, and the person in favour of whom the prior assignment so determined shall have been made shall forfeit all moneys which he shall have paid in respect of such assignment.

Clause XIX. Penalty on persons employing any immigrants under assignment.

And be it enacted, that if any person shall harbour or receive into his employment any immigrant to whose services any other person may be entitled under any assignment or transfer of services then unexpired and in force, every such person, on conviction before a justice of the peace (on the complaint of the Agent-General of Immigrants, or of the person entitled to such services, or of the manager or other person in charge of the plantation in respect of which such services shall be due, and which complaint may be laid at any time within twelve calendar months next after any day on which such immigrant may be so employed), shall forfeit and pay to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding ten pounds sterling, and the person entitled to such services under such assignment the sum of one shilling for each day during which such immigrant shall be so harboured or employed.

Clause XX. Duty payable by immigrants not under engagements to labour.

And be it enacted, that every new immigrant, not being under such written engagement to labour, shall pay to Her Majesty, for the use of the colony, a duty of five shillings for each calendar month during which he shall not be under such engagement, such duty to be paid in advance on the first day of each month, unless such day shall be a Sunday, and in that case on the day following, to the stipendiary justice of the district where such immigrant may reside.

Clause XXI. Immigrants under twelve years not to pay duty.

Provided always, and be it enacted, that no monthly duty shall be payable by or in respect of any such immigrant, so long as he shall be under the age of twelve years; but no part of such immigrant's residence in the colony up to the time of his attaining the age of twelve years, shall be taken as forming part of his industrial residence.

Clause XXII. Receipt to be given on payment of monthly duty.

And be it enacted, that to every immigrant, on the payment of such monthly duty, there shall be delivered by the stipendiary justice or other justice to whom such duty shall be paid, a receipt in writing, according to the Form C.I. in the Schedule to this Act annexed, which receipt shall be evidence, liable, however, to be rebutted, of the payment by such immigrant of all monthly duties up to the end of the month for which such receipt shall be given.

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Clause XXIII. Certificate of exemption.

And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, on its being certified to him by the superintendent of immigrants, or any justice of the parish or district where such immigrant shall reside, which certificate shall also be accompanied by a certificate to the same effect, signed by a medical practitioner, that any immigrant from sickness, accident, or other cause, is incapable of labour, by writing under his hand to grant to such immigrant an exemption for the whole or a portion of the term of his industrial residence, to be specified in such exemption, from the payment of such monthly duty, and also a free return passage where such immigrant shall have been introduced into this colony under an agreement reserving to him the right of a return passage, and thereupon the Agent-General of Immigrants shall deliver to the immigrant so exempted a certificate of exemption, which certificate shall be according to the Form D. in the Schedule to this Act annexed.

Clause XXIV. Employers liable for monthly duty in certain cases.

And be it enacted, that every person who shall receive any new immigrant into his employment, except under a written engagement to labour, shall by so doing make himself responsible for the payment to Her Majesty of the amount of all monthly duties which may be then due, or which may during the continuance of such employment become due by such immigrant.

Clause XXV. No registered immigrant shall leave the colony without a licence or by leave of the Governor.

And be it enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any immigrant who may be hereafter introduced into this colony at the public expense, or whose name shall appear in such register, to depart from this colony without a licence in writing, signed by the Agent-General of Immigrants; and no such licence to leave this colony shall be delivered by the Agent-General of Immigrants to any such immigrant until he shall he shall have completed a residence of five years within this colony, unless the Governor shall make order in writing, under his hand, for the return of any such immigrant to the place where he may have come from, before the expiration of the said term of five years.

Clause XXVI. Penalty on persons enveigling away and on masters of vessels receiving immigrants without licence with intent of carrying them away.

And be it enacted, that every person enticing or enveigling away, and every master or person in charge of any vessel, who shall knowingly receive or harbour on board of such vessel, or agree to receive on board of such vessel, with the intention of carrying out of this colony any such immigrant whose name shall appear in such register, and who shall not have obtained such licence, shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding twenty pounds sterling for each and every such immigrant whom he shall have so enticed or enveigled, or received or harboured, or agreed to receive with such intention as aforesaid.

Clause XXVII. Registered immigrant, on completion of industrial residence, entitled to passport, but not entitled thereto if he has not completed his term of industrial residence without paying a sum in proportion to time wanting to make up such term.

And be it enacted, that to every such immigrant desiring to leave the colony, who shall have completed his term of industrial residence, a licence in writing, signed by the Agent-General of Immigrants, shall be delivered by such agent, free of charge, on the application of such immigrant, but if such immigrant shall not have completed such industrial residence no licence or passport to leave this colony, even at his own expense, shall be delivered to such immigrant until he shall have paid to the Colonial Treasurer the sum of three pounds sterling for each year that may be wanting to make up the term of such industrial residence, and so in proportion for any space of time less than one year.

Clause XXVIII. What shall be deemed an industrial residence.

And be it enacted, that no portion of the time during which any immigrant shall have resided in this colony shall be deemed to form part of his term of five years' industrial residence, except the portion or portions for which he shall have been under a written engagement to labour with some planter, or for which he shall have duly paid the monthly duty herein-before mentioned.

Clause XXIX. Agreement to labour.

And be it enacted, that no agreement shall be construed to be an engagement to labour within the meaning of this Act, unless such agreement be made with some planter, and shall be in writing, and shall be expressed to be for the term of twelve calendar months, commencing from the day of the date of such agreement, and unless the same shall be signed or acknowledged by the parties thereto before the Agent-General of Immigrants, or some stipendiary or other justice of the peace.

Clause XXX. Onus probandi.

And be it enacted, that when any question shall arise whether any such immigrant has completed an industrial residence of five years within this colony, the burthen of proof shall be on such immigrant or other person alleging that such immigrant has completed such residence.

Clause XXXI. Penalty on immigrant pretending to have completed a residence of five years or using as his own the certificate of residence or discharge of some other immigrant.

And be it enacted, that any such immigrant who shall falsely and fraudulently pretend that he has completed a residence of five years within this colony, or who shall wilfully use as his own any certificate of residence or of discharge which shall have been granted to any other immigrant, or who shall lend his certificate of residence or of discharge to any other immigrant, and any immigrant or other person who shall wilfully counterfeit or alter any such certificate, shall, on conviction thereof before any two or more justices of the peace, be imprisoned with or without hard labour for such term not exceeding three calendar months as to the convicting justices shall seem fit.

Clause XXXII. Certificate of residence.

And be it enacted, that every immigrant who shall hereafter complete his industrial residence, on making the same appear to the satisfaction of the Agent-General of Immigrants, or of the stipendiary justice of the parish where such immigrant shall reside, shall be entitled to a certificate, to be called a certificate of industrial residence, under the hand of the Agent-General of Immigrants, which certificate shall be according to the Form E., in the Schedule to this Act annexed, and shall be delivered free from any charge to such immigrant.

Clause XXXIII. Immigrants to be registered in books, to be kept in districts.

And be it enacted, that for every parish or district there shall be kept by the stipendiary justice of such parish or district a book, in which shall be enregistered, in such manner as

the Governor may from time to time direct, the name and distinguishing number of each new immigrant who may from time to time be resident within such parish or district.

Clause XXXIV. Employers to make returns to stipendiary justices.

And be it enacted, that any employer or other person who at any time after the passing of this Act, shall take into his employ any new immigrant, under a written engagement to labour, shall, within five days after the making of such engagement, make a return in writing, specifying the name and distinguishing number of such immigrant, and the date of such engagement, which return shall be made to the stipendiary justice of the parish or district in which the labour under such engagement is to be performed, and every employer or other person who shall fail to make such return shall, on conviction thereof before any two justices of the peace, forfeit and pay for every such offence such sum, not exceeding two pounds, as to the convicting justices shall seem fit.

Clause XXXV. Penalty for neglecting to make returns.

And be it enacted, that every employer of any person, being a new immigrant, under a written engagement to labour, shall, ten days at the least before the expiration of the term of labour mentioned in such engagement, make a return in writing, specifying the name of such immigrant, and the time at which such term of labour will expire, to the stipendiary justice of the parish or district within which the labour under such agreement is to be performed, and every employer who shall fail to make such return shall, on conviction thereof before any two justices of the peace, forfeit and pay for every such default such sum, not exceeding ten pounds nor less than two pounds, as to the convicting justices shall seem fit.

Clause XXXVI. Immigrants not under engagement to labour or removing, to report themselves to stipendiary magistrates.

And be it enacted, that every new immigrant not being under an engagement to labour shall, within ten days after the determination of any engagement to labour, declare his name and distinguishing number, and the place of his residence, to the stipendiary justice of the parish or district where he shall reside, for the purpose of having the same registered, and every new immigrant afterwards removing to any other parish or district shall, in like manner, within five days after such removal, make a like declaration to the stipendiary justice of the parish or district to which he shall so remove, and every new immigrant who shall fail or neglect to make any such declaration as herein-before required shall, on conviction thereof before any two justices of the peace, be fined in a sum not exceeding two pounds, or in default of payment thereof shall be imprisoned with or without hard labour for such term not exceeding fourteen days, as to such justices shall seem fit.

Clause XXXVII. Recovery of duties.

And be it enacted, that such stipendiary justice shall, within the first seven days of each month, issue his warrant according to the Form F., in the Schedule to this Act annexed, for the recovery of all monthly duties payable under this Act, and which at the time of the issuing of such warrant may remain unpaid, specifying in such warrant, or in some Schedule to be attached thereto, the names and distinguishing numbers of the immigrants liable to pay the same; and it shall be lawful for any constable having the execution of such warrant to apprehend any such immigrant, and for that purpose, at any time in the day, to enter into and upon any house, place, or lands where any such immigrant may be or may reasonably be expected to be; and if any such immigrant shall not immediately produce a receipt for the amount of such monthly duty, or a sufficient certificate of exemption from the same, or shall not forthwith pay such monthly duty, together with the further sum of sixpence, such immigrant shall be forthwith committed to prison, there to be imprisoned in the common gaol of this island, with or without hard labour, for the term of fourteen days for every sum of five shillings of such monthly duty, unless such monthly duty and such penalty be sooner paid, and the gaoler or other person under whose charge such immigrant shall have been so imprisoned shall grant his certificate according to the Form G. in the Schedule to this Act annexed, of the fact of such monthly duty having been satisfied by such imprisonment.

Clause XXXVIII. Immigrants to labour for nine hours per day, except on Sundays and holidays.

And be it enacted, that every such immigrant whose services shall be so assigned or transferred as aforesaid, in the absence of an express agreement to the contrary between such immigrant and the person entitled to his services under such assignment or transfer, shall be bound to work upon or in the service of the plantation in respect of which his services shall be due for nine hours of each day, Sundays, Good Friday, Christmas-day, and New Year's day, only excepted.

Clause XXXIX. Allowances and wages.

And be it enacted, that every person in possession of the plantation in respect of which the services of any such immigrant may be so assigned or transferred, shall be bound to provide all such proper and sufficient medical and other care as may be agreed and determined upon by the Governor in Council, and proper and sufficient medicine and attendance for such immigrant during the continuance of his services, and shall be bound to supply to every such immigrant during the first three months after his arrival in the colony, such clothing and daily food as may be agreed and determined upon by the Governor in Council, and comfortable lodgings, and at the end of the said term of three months every emigrant shall, in the absence of any express agreement to the contrary, be entitled, in lieu of such clothing and food to wages, at the rate of ninepence per day.

Clause XL. Penalty on immigrant absent from work without excuse.

And be it enacted, that every new immigrant, being under a written engagement to labour, or whose services shall be so assigned or transferred, as aforesaid, who shall, without lawful excuse, absent himself from his work, shall forfeit his claim to all wages and allowances for the time during which he shall so absent himself (and shall also forfeit and pay to his employer the sum of sixpence sterling for every day during which he shall be so absent, and such absence, if it continue for more than one week, shall be made known by the employer to the Agent-General of Immigrants, and the time during which he shall have been so absent shall not be allowed as part of his industrial residence), or on conviction

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thereof before any two justices of the peace shall, for every such offence, be imprisoned in the common gaol of this island, with or without hard labour, for such term not exceeding fourteen days as to the convicting justices shall seem fit.

Clause XLI. Police constable, upon notice from Agent-General of Immigrants, to stop any immigrant found in any place without certificate.

And be it enacted, that the Agent-General of Immigrants, upon receipt of information of any such new immigrant being absent from his work without lawful excuse shall immediately give notice thereof, stating the name, distinguishing number, and location of such absent immigrant, to the nearest justice of the peace, who shall cause such notice to be conveyed without delay to every police station in the colony, and it shall be lawful for any police constable, upon such notice, to stop any new immigrant wherever he may find him, and also for the owner or occupier, or the servant of the owner or occupier of any land or house, to stop any such immigrant found upon or about such land or house, and if such immigrant, being so required, shall fail to produce his certificate of industrial residence, or a certificate of his discharge or the receipt for the last monthly duty payable by such immigrant, or a written ticket signed by the manager or other person in charge of the plantation in respect of which his service may be due, to take such immigrant forthwith before any justice of the peace, who shall forthwith inquire into the case; and unless such immigrant shall make it appear that he is not liable to the payment of such monthly duty, or that he is not indebted in respect of the same, or that he has already undergone imprisonment for nonpayment of the same, or shall not make immediate payment of the amount due by him in respect of such monthly duty, or unless such immigrant shall make it appear to the satisfaction of such justice that he has completed such residence or obtained such discharge, or that he is absent from the plantation in respect of which his services shall be due, with the leave of the manager or other person in charge of such plantation, then, and in such case, such justice shall make order for the immediate committal of such immigrant to imprisonment with or without hard labour in the common gaol for a term not exceeding fourteen days.

Clause XLII. Moneys to be paid over to Colonial Treasurer.

And be it enacted, that the Agent-General of Immigrants, the stipendiary and other justices of the peace, shall pay over all monies which shall be received by them under this Act to the Colonial Treasurer, monthly, within seven days after the end of each month.

Clause XLIII. Moneys paid to form immigration fund.

And be it enacted, that all moneys which shall be paid to Her Majesty, under this Act, shall be carried by the Colonial Treasurer to a separate account, to be called "The Immigration Fund," and shall be applied in aid of that fund, and an account of all such moneys shall be laid before the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, at their quarterly meetings in each year.

Clause XLIV. Recovery of penalties.

And be it enacted, that the amount of all monthly duties, penalties, and other moneys receivable by virtue of this Act shall and may be recovered in a summary manner, on a complaint to be laid by any constable of police in the name of the Agent-General of Immigrants, when the same shall be payable to Her Majesty, and by the employer when the same shall be payable to the employer.

Clause XLV. Mode of recovery of penalties.

And be it enacted, that in every case of a summary conviction under this Act where the sum which shall be forfeited or ordered to be paid shall not be paid immediately after the conviction, or within such period, not exceeding ten days after conviction, as the justices shall at the time of the conviction appoint, it shall be lawful for the convicting justices, where the amount of the sum forfeited or ordered to be paid shall not exceed ten pounds, by warrant under their hands and seals to authorize and require any constable to levy the same, together with the costs and charges attending such levy, by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the person or persons convicted, and in default of such distress it shall and may be lawful for such justices to commit such person or persons, so convicted, to the common gaol of this island, there to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three calendar months, or until payment of such sum so forfeited or ordered to be paid; and where the amount of the sum forfeited or ordered to be paid shall exceed ten pounds, by warrant under their hands and seals to authorize and require the Provost Marshal General to levy the same, together with the costs and charges attending such levy, upon the goods and chattels, lands and tenements, and hereditaments, of the person or persons so convicted, in the same manner and under the same regulations and restrictions as he would levy under execution any debt or damages recovered in the Supreme Court of Judicature; and in default of goods and chattels, lands and tenements, and hereditaments of the person or persons so convicted, it shall and may be lawful for the Provost Marshal to take the body or bodies of such person or persons so convicted, and him, her, or them, to imprison in the common gaol of this island, for any term not exceeding three calendar months, as the said justices shall direct, or until payment of such sum so forfeited or ordered to be paid.

Clause XLVI. Proof of handwriting of Agent-General sufficient evidence.

And be it enacted, that proof of the handwriting of the Agent-General of Immigrants to any assignment or transfer of the services of any immigrant, or to any certificate or other document mentioned in this Act, shall be sufficient evidence of the execution of the same, and of the facts mentioned in such assignment, transfer, certificate, or other document.

Clause XLVII. Agent-General to be superintendent of immigrants, and may enter into estates, and inquire into complaints.

And be it enacted, that the Agent-General of Immigrants shall also be the Superintendent of Immigrants, and that it shall be lawful for him as such Superintendent of Immigrants to enter into and upon any estate where any new immigrants may be employed, and to inspect the state and condition of all new immigrants whom he may find upon such estate, and inquire into any complaint which the employer may have against any such immigrant, or any immigrant may have against his employer.

Clause XLVIII. Penalty for opposing superintendent in the performance of his duty.

And be it enacted, that any person who shall obstruct such Superintendent of Immigrants in entering upon any estate where any new immigrant may be employed, or shall be by such Superintendent reasonably supposed to be employed, or shall wilfully do any act whereby such Superintendent may be prevented or obstructed in inspecting the state and condition of any new immigrant whom he may find on such estate, shall, on conviction thereof before a stipendiary or other justice of the peace, forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding twenty pounds sterling, for every such offence, as to the convicting justice shall seem fit.

SCHEDULE A.

Know all men by these presents, that I, , Agent-General of Immigrants, by order of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, do assign the services of, , a immigrant, who arrived in this colony on the day of in the ship to , in respect of the plantation , in a parish of , for the space of years, to be computed from the day of . The amount advanced to the said previous to his embarkation, and to be deducted from his wages, is .

(Signed) A. B., Agent-General of Immigrants.

B.

I certify that the immigrant [insert name and number of immigrant] who arrived in this colony on the day of in the ship , has paid to me the sum of , in consideration whereof I hereby order that the said be discharged from further service from the day of .

(Signed) A. B., Agent-General of Immigrants.

C.

These are to certify, that I, , Agent-General of Immigrants, at the request of the immigrant who arrived in this colony on the day of in the ship , and whose services were assigned to in respect of plantation for the space of years, do transfer the services of the said to of in respect of the plantation for years, to be computed from the day of .

(Signed) A. B., Agent-General of Immigrants.

C.

Received from [here insert the name and distinguishing number of immigrant] the sum of five shillings, being the monthly duty for the month of 18 .

(Signed) A. B., Stipendiary Justice, Warden, or Constable [as the case may be].

D.

I certify that the immigrant [here insert the name and distinguishing number] has been exempted from the payment of his monthly duty for months from this day of 18 .

(Signed) A. B., Agent-General of Immigrants.

E.

I certify that the immigrant [here insert his name and distinguishing number] has completed his term of industrial residence.

(Signed) A. B., Agent-General of Immigrants.

F.

To A. B., Constable.

You are hereby required to demand and receive from the immigrants whose names and numbers are mentioned in the Schedule hereto annexed, the amount of the monthly duty payable by them, respectively, for the month of in the present year, together with the penalty of pence for each of such immigrants; and in default of payment you shall commit each of such immigrants making such default to the common gaol, there to be imprisoned with hard labour, or (as the case may be) to hard labour on the [specify the public work in which they are to be employed] for the term of fourteen days, unless such monthly duty and the said penalty of pence be sooner paid.

(Signed) C. D., Stipendiary Magistrate.

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G.

I do hereby certify, that the immigrant [here insert the name and distinguishing number of immigrant] has satisfied the monthly duty payable by him for the month of 18 , by imprisonment with hard labour.

(Signed) A. B., Gaoler.

Passed the Assembly this nineteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty three.

(Signed) JOHN WELLS, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council the twentieth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

(Signed) OWSLEY ROWLEY, Clerk of Council.

Dated at Grenada, this twenty-fourth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

(Signed) RICHARD GIBBS, Speaker.

(L.M.S.) (Signed) F. Y. CHECKLEY, President.

Assented to by his Honour the President and Commander-in-Chief this twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, and in the seventeenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) OWSLEY ROWLEY, Clerk of Council.

Duly published in the town of St. George, in the island of Grenada, this twenty-sixth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, and in the seventeenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) S. COCKBURN, Acting P. M. G.

APPENDIX No. 21.

No. 498.

(R. W. KEATE, Lieut.-Governor.)

AN ACT for the raising of Money for the Purposes of Immigration. [8th December 1854.]

BE it enacted by the Governor, the Council, and Assembly of the island of Grenada and its dependencies, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Repeals Act No. 198.

1. The Act passed by the Legislature of Grenada on the twelfth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, intituled "An Act to raise (for the Purpose of promoting the Introduction of free Labourers into Grenada) by Loan, Debenture, or otherwise, a Sum not exceeding Twenty-five thousand Pounds, to provide for the due Payment of the Interest thereof (to be guaranteed by Her Majesty under the Act 11th and 12th of Victoria, Chapter 130) and for the Repayment of such Loan by charging the same upon the Revenues of the Colony," shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

Agents for the purposes of this Act to be appointed by Her Majesty.

2. Such persons as Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors, shall from time to time appoint shall be agents under this Act for the purpose of borrowing, raising, and managing the moneys herein-after proposed to be borrowed and raised.

Agents to raise a sum not exceeding 7,000*l.* on bond.

3. Such agents shall have full power and authority to borrow and raise such sums of money not exceeding seven thousand pounds, as the Lord High Treasurer or the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury shall allow to be raised by this colony, under the said Act of Parliament, upon the security herein-after mentioned, by issuing bonds or debentures, framed and signed in such manner and form as such agents shall think fit, and such bonds or debentures shall be transferable and negotiable, and shall each be drawn for a sum not less than two hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, bearing interest at a rate not exceeding four pounds per centum per annum, and the interest on the said bonds or debentures shall be made payable half-yearly by such agents in London in such manner and form as the said agents or any two of them shall deem fit.

Payment of charges attendant upon execution of this Act.

4. Such agents shall have full power and authority to pay, from time to time, out of any moneys which may be raised under the provisions of this Act, all incidental charges attendant upon the execution of this Act.

Agents to issue new bonds in view of bonds defaced.

5. In case any bond or debenture to be issued under this Act shall by any accident be defaced it shall be lawful for such agents from time to time to cause a new bond or debenture to be made instead of the bond or debenture so defaced, which bond or debenture so defaced shall be cancelled in the presence of such agents, or any two of them, and the bond or debenture so cancelled shall be kept on a file or files to be provided for that purpose, and such new bond or debenture so to be made shall be negotiable, and shall in all respects be subject to the same rules as the bond or debenture so defaced was subject to, and the new bond or debenture shall bear the same number and date, and shall be made for the same principal sum, and shall carry the same interest as the original bond or debenture in lieu of which such new bond or debenture shall be granted.

Agents may issue new bonds in lieu of bonds lost or destroyed.

6. In case proof shall be made to the satisfaction of such agents, whose decision shall be final, that any bond or debenture issued under this Act has, by casualty or mischance, been lost or otherwise destroyed before the same shall have been paid off and discharged, and if by such proof the number of such bond or debenture and its amount shall be ascertained,

then and in every such case such agents shall deliver to the party or parties entitled thereto a new bond or debenture, which shall bear the same number and date, and shall be made for the same principal sum, and shall carry the same interest as the bond or debenture so lost or destroyed; and if any bond or debenture so lost or destroyed shall be overdue such agents shall cause the money due upon every such bond or debenture to be paid off and discharged: Provided always, that in every such case the agents shall be bound to take good security to indemnify the Colonial Government against any loss which might otherwise be incurred in case any bond or debenture stated to be lost or destroyed should at any time afterwards be offered for payment of the sum mentioned therein, or of interest thereon.

Agents to hold mone at disposal of the Governor.

7. Such agents shall hold all sums of money raised by virtue of this Act at the disposal of the Governor, and shall accept and pay bills, receive and pay money, as such agents may from time to time be directed by the Governor, and shall from time to time invest in Exchequer Bills all sums remaining in their hands not immediately required for the purposes of this Act.

Bonds to be made redeemable.

8. Such bonds or debentures shall be redeemable and shall be redeemed at the expiration of twenty years from the date of their issue, and shall be subject to such conditions as such agents shall see fit, and as shall be therein expressed, and the conditions so made shall be binding upon the colony.

Sinking fund to be established for the redemption of the debt.

9. There shall be established, at the expiration of one year from the issuing of such bonds, a sinking fund for the redemption of the aforesaid loan, to which sinking fund there shall be carried and appropriated in each year from the revenues herein-after specified a sum of money equal to one twentieth part of such loan, unless the Lord High Treasurer or the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury shall authorize a less sum to be so appropriated.

Moneys to be invested in Government securities.

10. The moneys to be carried and appropriated to such sinking fund shall from time to time be invested in the names of such agents in the Government securities, and the dividends to accrue upon the same shall from time to time be invested in the same manner.

Treasurer to remit moneys for the purposes of this Act.

11. It shall be lawful for the Colonial Treasurer, on the warrant of the Governor, and on the requisition of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, to remit to such agent such moneys as may from time to time be requisite to meet the demands that may be made against any such agents under the provisions of this Act.

Moneys paid out of Consolidated Fund for interest with interest thereon charged on colonial revenues.

12. All the sums which shall be issued and paid out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom under the authority of the said Act of Parliament in respect of the interest of such loan, with the interest upon the sum so issued after the yearly rate of five pounds in the one hundred pounds, to be computed from the several times of issuing the same, shall be and are hereby charged upon the revenues herein-after specified.

Loans to be charged on revenue raised for immigration purposes under Act No. 212, and in cases of deficiency in general revenues of the colony.

13. All sums of money to become due and payable by this colony by virtue of this Act, whether the same shall consist of principal or interest, shall be and they are hereby charged upon the revenue raised under the Act passed by the Legislature of Grenada on the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, intituled "An Act to consolidate the Laws relating to the Duty on Rum," and thereby made applicable for the purposes of immigration, and in case of any deficiency of or in such revenue the amount of such deficiency shall be a primary charge upon the general revenues of the colony.

Revenues raised under this Act to be applied for immigration purposes.

14. All moneys raised under this Act shall be applicable to the payment of the expenses of introducing labourers into this colony, and to no other purpose whatsoever.

Agents to furnish half-yearly accounts.

15. The agents for the time being under this Act shall, on the thirtieth day of June and the thirty-first day of December in each year, make up a full and particular account of their receipts and expenditure, and of the state of the funds in hand arising under this Act, and shall transmit such accounts to the Governor, through Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, to be laid before the Council and Assembly.

Passed the Assembly this eighteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

(Signed) JOHN WELLS, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council the eighteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

(Signed) OWSLEY ROWLEY, Clerk of Council.

Dated at Grenada this eighth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

(Signed) RICHARD GIBBS, Speaker.

(L.M.S.) (Signed) ROBT. W. KEATE, Lieut.-Governor.

Assented to by his Excellency the Lieut.-Governor and Commander-in-Chief this eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and in the eighteenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) SAM. MITCHELL, Colonial Secretary.

Duly published in the town of St. George, in the island of Grenada, this eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and in the eighteenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) GEO. FRASER, Provost-Marshal.

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APPENDIX No. 22.

No. 510.

(ROBERT W. KEATE, Lieut.-Governor.)

AN ACT to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants.

[8th September 1855.]

BE it enacted by the Governor, the Council and Assembly of the island of Grenada and its dependencies, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, as follows:

Repeal of Acts.

1. Act No. 139, the eleventh clause of Act No. 141, Acts No. 171, No. 177, and No. 188 are hereby repealed, save and except as to any existing contract, and as to any tax or duty imposed by and remaining unpaid under any such Act; but such repeal shall not invalidate or affect anything done under or by virtue of any such Act.

Payment of agents abroad.

2. Whereas certain persons have been appointed agents by Her Majesty's Government to superintend the emigration of labourers from certain places to Her Majesty's colonies in the West Indies and to British Guiana, the Governor may from time to time pay a part of the salary or remuneration granted by Her Majesty to each of such agents as are or may be hereafter so appointed, in proportion to the number of emigrants which may be sent to this colony.

Payment of expenses incurred abroad.

3. The Governor may pay the amount of every moderate and necessary expense incurred at any port or place where any such agent is appointed for the collection of emigrants, in conveying emigrants to the port of embarkation, in maintaining them there for a period not exceeding fifteen days, and in providing them with such supply of clothing as may be requisite for their voyage to this colony, upon the receipt from such agent of an account thereof duly vouched, showing the particulars of such expenditure, countersigned by the Governor of such place, or by such officer as he may appoint, if the same be a British possession, or by Her Majesty's consul at any foreign port or place, such Governor, officer, or Consul, as the case may be, certifying thereby, so far as he knows, that such expenditure has been solely incurred for the purposes aforesaid, or for any of such purposes, and is just and reasonable, and may likewise pay the amount of any expenditure incurred by Her Majesty's Government, or by commissioners appointed by Her Majesty's Government at the request of the Governor and Council, in the hiring, employing, and licensing of any vessel for bringing or sending immigrants into this colony, from the East Indies or from China, in providing for the maintenance and clothing of such immigrants during their passage, or otherwise in employing on board any such vessel a surgeon, and such other just expenditure as shall be caused by and be necessarily incidental to such immigration to this colony, and all just expenditure caused by and necessarily incidental to sending back any immigrants from the East Indies at the expiration of their stipulated term of residence to the place from whence they shall have been brought or sent into this colony.

Governor to name places for immigration on bounty and fix rate and number of weeks allowed for passage.

Limitation of bounty.

4. The Governor in Council may from time to time, by proclamation, name the ports or places from which emigration on bounty is permitted to this colony, and may fix such rate of bounty as to him shall seem just for indemnifying the person at whose charge any immigrant may be introduced into this colony, for the expense of his maintenance and passage from the port of embarkation to this colony, and shall, in his proclamation to be issued for that purpose, declare the number of weeks deemed necessary for the voyage of any ship or vessel from such respective ports or places to this colony: Provided always, that no rate of bounty shall be fixed, and that no bounty shall be allowed for the importation of any immigrant who may be incompetent or unwilling to engage in agricultural labour, or for any immigrant above the age of forty years, unless in either case such immigrant shall be one of a family of immigrants arriving in the same vessel; and provided further, that no bounty or passage money shall be paid for any greater number of immigrants imported by any one vessel from the island of Madeira, from any of the islands of the Azores, Cape de Verde islands, Canary islands, and other places of similar distance, than at the rate of one immigrant for each ton of the measurement of such vessel.

Rates payable to private importer.

5. Any person who having first obtained a licence to that effect from the Governor, which licence the Governor shall grant or refuse at his discretion, shall introduce at his own expense immigrants under written contract with him for service upon his own plantation, shall be entitled to receive from the immigration funds one-half the rate of bounty which would have been payable under any such proclamation as aforesaid for each such immigrant if introduced at the public expense: Provided that the party applying for such licence as aforesaid shall give to the Governor such security as he may require for the carrying out the object of such licence, and that the number of such immigrants paid for shall not exceed the number stated in the licence to be granted to such person as aforesaid.

Appointment of Immigration Agent.

6. The Governor may nominate and appoint some fit and proper person resident in this colony to be Immigration Agent, and may from time to time remove any person so nominated and appointed, and nominate and appoint any other fit and proper person in his place, and any person so nominated and appointed shall during his tenure of office be paid annually such salary not exceeding fifty pounds as the Governor in Council shall determine: Provided always, that such Immigration Agent shall not be entitled to, nor receive any

part of such salary until on, from, and after the arrival in this colony of immigrants to be introduced subject to the provisions of this Act.

Proceedings on arrival of vessel with immigrants.

7. Upon the arrival in the colony of any vessel having immigrants on board, the Immigration Agent, accompanied by the health officer of the port, shall forthwith proceed on board of such vessel, and with the assistance of such officer shall ascertain by personal inspection of the vessel and immigrants whether the provisions of the Imperial Passengers' Act for the time being, as far as they may be applicable, have been complied with or not; and such Immigration Agent with such assistance as aforesaid shall personally muster such immigrants and compare the number and names of such immigrants with the duplicate list, if any, furnished to the master by the agent at the port of embarkation, which he shall require such master to produce and deliver to him, and shall certify upon such duplicate list the name of the vessel, the total number of immigrants then living and on board of such vessel, together with the state or condition of each immigrant, his fitness for agricultural labour, and at whose cost and charges he is imported; and in case any immigrant shall have died during the passage, or the number or names of the immigrants shall differ from the number and names of the immigrants stated in such duplicate list, the Immigration Agent shall note such death or difference upon such duplicate list, and thereupon, with the approbation of the Governor, shall grant a licence for the disembarkation and landing of the immigrants from such vessel.

Bounty or passage money to be paid on certificate.

Schedule A.

8. If the Immigration Agent, with the assistance of the health officer of the port, on personal inspection of the vessel and immigrants, shall be satisfied that the provisions of the Imperial Passengers' Act for the time being, in so far as they may apply, have been fully complied with, he shall transmit to the Governor a certificate, in the form annexed, marked A., stating in the same the date of the arrival in this colony of such immigrants, and the place from whence, and the vessel in which such immigrants shall have arrived, and the sum of money payable in respect of such immigrants, and thereupon the Governor shall issue his warrant to the Public Treasurer to pay the same: Provided always, that bounty or passage money shall be paid only for such immigrants as are landed alive in this colony.

Agent to provide for unemployed immigrants.

9. If any immigrants shall not on their arrival be immediately provided with employment, it shall be the duty of the Immigration Agent, with the approval of the Governor, to provide such immigrants with wholesome and sufficient food, and with convenient lodging on shore until the means of earning their own subsistence can be procured for them, and the Immigration Agent shall deliver to the Governor an account, supported by all necessary vouchers, of the expenditure incurred by him in procuring such food and lodging, and if such account be approved of by the Governor, the same shall be paid.

Registers of immigrants to be kept.

10. The Immigration Agent shall keep separate registers of all immigrants introduced into this colony, that is to say, firstly, a register of immigrants from any of Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company; secondly, a register of indentured Africans; thirdly, a register of Portuguese immigrants; fourthly, a register of Chinese immigrants; and fifthly, a register of all other immigrants not coming under the denomination of any of the immigrants mentioned in any of the aforesaid classes, and shall in each of such registers insert the name of each immigrant thereto belonging, and the number attached to his name in the list delivered by the master of the ship in which he shall be imported, and shall number each of the immigrants of each class by a particular number, proceeding in regular order with the other numbers, so that no two immigrants of the same class shall bear the same number, and shall insert in each of such registers under different heads the number, name, age, sex, size, birth-place, and any distinguishing mark of every immigrant belonging to such class, the time when, the place from whence, and the name of the party, if any, at whose cost and charges such immigrant may be imported, and the name of the vessel in which such immigrant shall have arrived, together with the cost of the passage of such immigrant, and whether such immigrant will or will not be entitled to a return passage, and of the amount of money which may have been advanced to such immigrant previous to his arrival in the colony, and which is to be repaid by him out of his wages.

Application by employer requiring immigrants.

11. Any employer who may be desirous of locating immigrants on his plantation under the provisions of this Act shall make application to the Immigration Agent, fully setting forth in writing the situation of such plantation, the name of the proprietor thereof, the number and description of the immigrants required, the nature of the labour to be performed, and all other particulars, and no such application shall be received unless such employer shall also satisfy the Immigration Agent that comfortable and sufficient accommodation, a suitable hospital, and medical attendance, according to law, have been or will be duly provided for such immigrants; and the Immigration Agent shall make and keep in his office a true and faithful register of all such applications, numbering them in the order in which they shall be respectively received, such numbering, however, not to give any right of preference to any person or plantation over any other person or plantation; and every such application shall remain good and valid until the number of immigrants applied for shall be allotted, or unless such application be withdrawn by the applicant or be rendered invalid by the death, insolvency, or absence unrepresented of the party making the same.

Contracts made with Indian and African immigrants out of colony when binding.

12. Unless by permission of Her Majesty's Government previously had and obtained, no contract entered into by any employer with any immigrant from any part of India, or from any part of the African continent, or from the island of Madagascar, or from any other island

adjacent to the coast of the African continent and inhabited by the negro race, shall be valid unless the same shall have been made within this colony.

Contracts made out of the colony with Chinese immigrants valid.

13. All contracts made and entered into out of this colony with any Chinese immigrant for the performance of any labour or service in agriculture within this colony for any period not exceeding the term of five years, to be computed from the day of the landing of such immigrant in the colony, shall be valid and in force for the period therein mentioned: Provided always that no such contract shall be valid or in force unless the same shall be reduced to writing and shall be signed with the name, or in case of illiterate persons, with the mark of each of the contracting parties, in the presence of a notary public, British consul, or other officer approved by Her Majesty's Government, nor unless such notary public, British consul, or other officer shall subscribe the written contract in attestation of the fact that it was entered into by the parties voluntarily and with a clear understanding of its meaning and effect.

What other contracts may be made out of colony.

14. If any labourer arriving in this colony from Madeira, the Azores, the Canaries, or the Cape de Verde islands, or from any part of Europe or of the West Indies, or of the United States, or of the British provinces of North America, or from any port or place from which immigration on bounty shall have been permitted by such proclamation as aforesaid, (except from any place mentioned in the twelfth clause of this Act, and except Chinese immigrants), shall before his arrival have contracted with any person to perform service in this colony, such contract shall, when approved and countersigned by the Immigration Agent, and subject to such alterations as the said agent may with the consent of the parties have made therein, be valid in this colony for the full period named in such contracts not exceeding three years: Provided that, except as herein-after mentioned, no such contract shall be so approved and countersigned unless it shall have been signed with the names or marks of the contracting parties, and attested by some notary public or British consul, or by some other person approved by or acting under authority of Her Majesty's Government, who shall declare that the parties entered into it voluntarily and with a full understanding of its meaning, nor unless the Immigration Agent shall be satisfied that the immigration has been carried on in accordance with all existing regulations of the Imperial or Colonial Government.

The Governor may direct Immigration Agent to approve contract.

15. If the Immigration Agent shall not be satisfied, or shall find the contract not to be so signed and attested as aforesaid, he shall report the same to the Governor, who may, if he shall think fit, notwithstanding such report, direct the Immigration Agent to approve and countersign such contract in manner aforesaid.

Contracts with immigrants of African descent coming from the United States or British Provinces of North America may be made within this colony for three years.

16. Every immigrant of African descent coming from any part of the United States or of the British provinces of North America who shall not before arrival have entered into contract to be approved as aforesaid, shall be indentured in the form annexed, marked B., for a period of not less than twelve months, nor more than three years, from the date of his arrival.

Naturalization of aliens of African descent.

17. Every immigrant of African descent, not being a British subject, who shall come for the purpose of settling within this colony from any part of the United States or of the British Provinces of North America, and who shall have entered or shall enter into contract as aforesaid, shall, after three years' residence in this colony, and on taking the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty before the Governor in the presence of the Secretary of the colony, be entitled within this colony to all the privileges of a natural-born British subject, and such Secretary shall enter in a register to be kept in his office the name, sex, and age of every such immigrant taking the said oath, and the day when and the vessel in which such immigrant shall have arrived, and the party with whom such immigrant shall have entered into contract as aforesaid, and such register, or an extract therefrom, certified by such Secretary, shall, upon proof of the identity of such immigrant, be sufficient evidence of the right of such immigrant to the privileges aforesaid.

Classification of liberated Africans.

18. All liberated Africans who may be hereafter sent to this colony at the expense of Her Majesty's Treasury shall be divided into two classes, the first class of whom shall comprise all those who upon the inspection of the Immigration Agent and the health officer shall be considered to be above the age of fifteen years, and the second class of whom shall comprise all those who upon such inspection as aforesaid shall be considered to be under the age of fifteen years.

Term of indenture with Portuguese, with Coolies, Chinese, and liberated Africans of the first class.

Schedule B.

19. Every immigrant from the island of Madeira, from any of the islands of the Azores, or the Cape de Verde or Canary islands, who shall not before arrival have entered into contract to be approved as aforesaid, shall be indentured in the form annexed, marked B., for a period of not less than twelve months nor more than three years from the date of his arrival; and every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, or from any part of the African continent, from which immigration shall be permitted by Her Majesty's Government, every Chinese immigrant, and every liberated African of the first class, shall be indentured in the form annexed, marked B., for a period of three years from the date of his arrival.

Contract with liberated Africans of the second class.

Schedule C.

20. All liberated Africans of the second class shall be indentured until they shall have attained the age of eighteen years in the form annexed, marked C., or in such other form as may be approved by the Governor.

Recovery of advances to Chinese immigrants.

21. Any person to whom any Chinese immigrants shall be allotted, for whose introduction bounty may be claimed, and who shall, previously to their embarkation,, have entered into a contract engaging them to repay advances made to them by monthly deductions from

their wages, shall pay to the party with whom such contract shall have been made the amount of such advances, provided the same shall not exceed two pounds ten shillings for each immigrant; and such first-mentioned person shall be authorized to recover such amount by monthly deductions from the wages earned by such immigrants in the proportion of not more than four shillings and twopence per month.

Renewal of contracts with Indian Coolies and with Chinese.

22. It shall be lawful for every Chinese immigrant and for every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, at any time not less than one nor more than three months before the expiration of his indenture, to signify to the Immigration Agent, or to any justice of the peace, for the information of the Immigration Agent, whether he desires to be re-indentured to the same or to some other employer for a further period of two years from the termination of the original indenture, or whether he will pay to the said Immigration Agent the sum of five pounds, and it shall be lawful for such immigrant, in the event of his being so re-indentured at any time not less than one or more than three months before the expiration of the first year of such re-indenture, to signify to the said Immigration Agent whether he desires to be re-indentured to some other employer for the second year of such re-indenture, or whether he will pay to the said Immigration Agent the sum of two pounds and ten shillings on condition of being released from such re-indenture; and if any such immigrant shall fail to make application in the manner provided by this section, or shall fail to pay the amount hereinbefore required of him at least ten days before the expiration of the indenture under which he may be then serving, such contract or indenture shall thereupon be deemed to be renewed in like manner as if he had applied to be so re-indentured.

Location of immigrants.

23. On the arrival in this colony of any immigrants not already under a written contract with some individual, the Immigration Agent shall, with the approval of the Governor, proceed to locate them on such plantations as they may prefer, or if they do not desire to exercise any preference, shall locate them in such numbers and proportions as circumstances will admit of on those plantations for which applications for immigrants shall have been previously made; and each employer, before he shall become entitled to the services of such immigrants, shall enter into a contract according to the form annexed, marked B. or C., with each immigrant or with the Immigration Agent on his behalf, as the nature of the case may require, of such period as any such immigrant is, by any of the preceding sections of this Act, required to be indentured upon arrival, which said contract shall be in triplicate and shall be prepared by the Immigration Agent, and for preparing which such Immigration Agent shall be entitled to the sum of one shilling and no more for each such contract in triplicate as aforesaid, to be paid by the person to whom the immigrants are to be allotted, and one copy of such contract shall be delivered to the immigrant, another to the employer, and the third shall be forwarded to the Chairman of the Board of Magistrates for the district, provided that it shall not be lawful for the said Immigration Agent, in locating such Immigrants as aforesaid, to separate husbands from wives, nor children under fifteen years of age from their parents or natural protectors; and provided further, that no immigrant shall be allotted to any employer who is in arrear in the payment of any sum due to the colony for or on account of immigrants previously allotted to such employer.

Schedule B. and C.

Payment by employer of half of bounty or passage money.

24. Every employer to whom any such immigrant shall be indentured on arrival as aforesaid shall pay to the public treasurer one half of the bounty or passage money which shall be due or shall have been paid in respect of such immigrant, one pound of which shall be paid at the execution of the contract, and for the balance of which three promissory notes shall be given, each bearing even date with the said contract, the first of which promissory notes shall be for one third of such balance, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, payable one year after the date thereof, the second of which promissory notes shall be for another third of said balance, with interest as aforesaid, payable two years after the date thereof, and the third of which promissory notes shall be for the remaining third of said balance, with interest as aforesaid, payable three years after the date. The public treasurer, on the behalf of the colony, shall recover the capital and interest of all such notes, by warrant under his hand and seal, in nature of an execution as in the case of nonpayment of any rate, tax, or assessment under any Act for the time being in force for granting unto Her Majesty an aid by rates, taxes, and assessments, and shall have and hold for such capital and interest a preferent lien on the estates to which such immigrants shall be allotted over and above all liens and mortgages, legal and equitable, except liens and preferent rights of the Crown, the employer however to have the right of paying at once the whole of the capital money payable by him as aforesaid, or of redeeming any of the promissory notes with rebate of interest at any time before the same shall become due: Provided always, that lessees of estates to which immigrants may be allotted shall be required either to provide approved endorsers to such promissory notes as aforesaid, or to pay the whole amount due upon the execution of the indentures of such immigrants.

Public Treasurer to have list of allotments and amounts due.

25. The Immigration Agent shall, whenever he allots immigrants, transmit forthwith to the public treasurer a list of the estates to which such immigrants have been allotted, stating the number and description of immigrants allotted to each, and the amount becoming payable from time to time in respect thereof respectively.

List of immigrants to be published annually. Schedule D.

26. The Immigration Agent shall, as soon as possible after the first day of January in each and every year, publish in the Official Gazette of the colony a list in the form annexed, marked D., or in such other form as may be approved of by the Governor, of all vessels

which have arrived in the colony with immigrants during the year preceding, the number of immigrants so arrived, and the distribution of such immigrants.

Manager of plantation to keep muster roll.

27. The manager or person in charge of any plantation or estate upon which any Chinese, Indian, or African immigrants shall be employed, whether under indenture or under monthly contracts as herein-after provided, shall, for each and every month that such immigrants shall continue to be so employed, keep a muster-roll of the form annexed, marked E., and it shall be the duty of such manager or person in charge, and he is hereby required to direct all such immigrants to attend each day at such convenient time or times, and at such convenient place or places, on the plantation or estate as may by him be assigned for that purpose, and such manager or person in charge shall then and there, either personally or by means of some person deputed by him, call over the names of all such immigrants, and note upon the muster-roll whether they or any of them are present or absent, and such muster-roll shall daily be signed by the person by whom the names shall have been so called over, and shall be carefuly preserved by the manager or person in charge of the plantation or estate for the purposes of this Act, and any manager or person in charge of any plantation or estate who shall fail to comply with the provisions of this section, or shall make any false entry in the muster-roll to be by him kept, shall be liable, on conviction, to a penalty not exceeding four pounds for every such offence, and in default of payment to imprisonment not exceeding five days.

Schedule E.

Term of verbal contract.

28. Every verbal or unwritten contract or agreement for the hire of any immigrant shall, in the absence of proof of any express agreement between the parties to the contrary, be deemed and taken in law to be a contract or agreement for one month, and to be renewable from month to month, and shall be deemed and taken in law to be so renewed by the parties unless a week's previous notice or warning be given by either party to the other of his or her intention not to renew the same, and the wages for such service shall be payable weekly, and any employer shall be entitled to discharge any immigrant hired under the provisions of this section without previous notice, provided such immigrant be instantly paid his wages for the time he has served, and also for fifteen days from the time of such discharge: Provided that any such verbal or unwritten contract or agreement may at any time be determined by the misconduct of either party, in their relative capacity of employer and servant, which may be proved by either party against the other.

Penalty on breach of verbal contract by employer.

29. If any employer shall terminate any contract or agreement made with any immigrant under the provisions of the preceding section, except with the consent of such immigrant, or by giving notice or paying wages, or for misconduct as therein provided, such employer shall forfeit and pay to the use of the immigrant a sum equal to one month's wages, according to the rate of wages which may have been fixed by and between the parties, or if the rate of wages shall not have been so fixed, then such sum as the presiding magistrate or justices may consider fair and reasonable as and for a month's wages, in addition to the wages due to the immigrant at the time of the termination of such contract.

Immigrant may prove ill-usage in defence.

30. On any complaint made by any employer against any immigrant for refusing or wilfully neglecting to perform any verbal or unwritten contract, such immigrant shall be at liberty to show by evidence in answer to such complaint that he terminated his service or contract in consequence of ill-usage by his employer, or for some other good and sufficient cause to be judged of by the presiding magistrate or justices.

Penalty on ill-usage.

31. If any employer shall ill-use any immigrant he shall be liable, on conviction, to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds.

Justice may discharge from contract and decide in any case as to wages due in addition to any other order on complaint made.

32. Upon any complaint made by any employer or immigrant, the magistrate or justice by whom such complaint shall be heard may, in addition to any other order made on such complaint, award to such immigrant the whole or such proportion of the wages appearing due to him as such justice or justices shall think reasonable, or shall authorize the employer to retain the whole or any specified portion of such wages, and may discharge such employer or immigrant from his contract or service, and shall, in such case, give to such employer or immigrant, as the case may require, a certificate of such discharge and of such award without any fee or consideration.

Governor may discharge immigrant from service on account of ill-usage by employer.

33. If it shall be made to appear to the Governor that any employer of any indentured immigrant, or other person acting under his authority, shall have been convicted of gross or repeated ill-usage or ill-treatment of any such immigrant, the Governor may direct the immigrant so ill-used or ill-treated, and also, if he shall so think fit, every other immigrant indentured to such employer, to be released and discharged from all further service to such employer, and thereupon such immigrant or immigrants shall be wholly discharged from all further service to such employer, and the Governor shall direct the Immigration Agent to indenture immigrants discharged under the provisions of this or of the preceding section, to such other employer as to him may seem fit: Provided always, that the term of service for which every such immigrant shall be indentured by any such new indenture shall not, together with the time of his or her past service, exceed the period of service for which such immigrant was previously bound.

Immigrant absenting himself, refusing to work, or guilty of misconduct.

34. Any immigrant who, without reasonable cause, shall neglect or refuse to attend at the daily call of the muster roll, or at and during the time and hours, or at the place where and when he shall have contracted or agreed to attend, in commencing or carrying on any work during such hours as it shall be usual so to attend, or who, without reasonable cause, shall leave unfinished, or refuse to finish any work contracted or agreed to be done, or who shall be guilty of any drunkenness, wilful disobedience of orders, insolence, or neglect of

duty, or other misconduct in the service of his employer, or who shall quit the service of such employer without leave or reasonable cause before the end of the period stated in his indenture, or before the end of the period for which he shall have verbally contracted, or agreed to serve, as the case may be, shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit the whole or any part of any wages then due, and not exceeding the wages of one week, and be punished by fine or imprisonment, with or without hard labour, at the discretion of the presiding magistrate or justices, such fine not to exceed four pounds, and such imprisonment not to exceed thirty days.

On complaint of absence muster-roll to be produced.

35. In the case of any complaint made by any employer against any Chinese, Indian, or African immigrant for absenting himself from his service or employment, it shall be lawful for the presiding magistrate or justices, and he and they is and are hereby required to demand the production of the muster roll of the plantation or estate for the month during which such absence shall have taken place, and if such muster roll shall not be produced, or if it shall appear, on inspection thereof, and shall be proved in evidence that the names of such immigrants have not been fully called over as herein-before enacted, then, and in any such case, such complaint shall be dismissed.

Governor in Council may make rules for general treatment of immigrants.

36. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council from time to time to make and promulgate rules and orders respecting the lodging, medicine, medical attendance, care, food, and clothing, and for the general treatment of all immigrants, and the regulations so made shall be deemed part of the contract of the employer and the immigrant.

Hours of labour.

37. Every indentured immigrant, in the absence of any express agreement to the contrary, and except in case of illness, shall be bound to work upon or in the servcie of the plantation mentioned in his indenture for nine hours of each day, Sundays, Good Friday, New Year's day, and Christmas day only excepted: Provided always, that during his absence on account of illness, every such immigrant shall, in the absence of any express agreement to the contrary, receive intsead of wages such allowances as the state of his health may require.

Employer failing to provide employment.

38. If it shall be established before any two justices of the peace, on complaint preferred by any indentured immigrant, that such immigrant is not provided by his employer with sufficient work to enable him to earn a just amount of wages in terms of his contract, such justices shall declare and adjudge the contract or indenture of such immigrant to be thereby cancelled, and thereupon it shall be lawful for the Governor to cause such immigrant to be indentured to some other employer, who shall be required to pay or to give promissory notes in manner and form provided by section 24 of this Act for such sums as may be the due proportion of the bounty or passage money for the unexpired period of the term of service transferred to him, the original employer and his estate remaining liable, however, for such sum or sums as may be due for the expired term or proportion of the whole period of service as expressed in the original contract or indenture.

Abatement of wages for misconduct.

39. Upon any complaint by any immigrant for non-payment of wages or damages for breach of contract or misconduct by his employer, it shall be lawful for the presiding magistrate or justices to make a proportional abatement out of any sum to be awarded as the wages or damages due to such immigrant for such days or time as he shall be proved to have been, without the consent of his employer, absent from or neglecting his service or work, and also for the value of any damage done to the property of his employer, by or through the misconduct or negligence or carelessness of such immigrant.

Immigrant endangering or destroying property.

40. If any such immigrant as aforesaid shall, by negligence or other improper conduct, lose, throw away, endanger, or damage the property of his employer, or shall endanger such property by a careless or improper use of fire, or shall cruelly ill-use any cattle or other live stock belonging to his employer, or entrusted to his care, or by negligence shall suffer or occasion to be cruelly ill-used any such cattle or live stock, every such offender, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, with or without hard labour, such fine not to exceed four pounds, and such imprisonment not to exceed thirty days.

Limitation of period for preferring complaints.

41. No complaint by any employer against any immigrant or by any immigrant against any employer made under any of the twelve preceding sections of this Act shall be entertained unless the same shall be preferred within thirty days after the occurrence of the subject matter of such complaint, and upon the hearing of any such complaint no abatement or deduction shall be made from the amount determined to be due to either party by reason of any misconduct of which such party may have been guilty at any time exceeding thirty days before the institution of such complaint.

Issue of certificate of industrial residence.

Schedule F.

42. Every immigrant, of whatever description, who shall have completed the term of service under contract or indenture herein-before required of him respectively, or shall have paid the sums herein-before required to be paid in commutation of such service, shall be entitled to demand and receive from the Immigration Agent, free of all charge, a certificate of industrial residence, to be written or printed according to the form in the Schedule F. to this Act annexed, and shall and thereupon be released from all further obligation to perform service under contract or indenture, and such certificate shall be delivered free of cost to such immigrant by the said Immigration Agent at the proper time, if he can be found, whether application shall be made for the same or not, provided that it shall be lawful for the Governor, on being satisfied that any immigrant is, whether from sickness or any other cause, permanently disabled and unfit to perform any labour, to authorize the Immigration Agent to grant a certificate of exemption from labour, and provided that notice

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shall be published by the Immigration Agent for the space of one month before the issue of any certificate under this section of the intention to issue the same.

Or of exemption from labour.

Register of certificates.

43. The Immigration Agent shall keep a register of all certificates issued under the provisions of the preceding section, which register shall contain the description, sex, age, and any other distinguishing mark as clearly as the same can be set forth, of every immigrant to whom any such certificate may be granted, and if at any time any question shall arise, whether before a court of law or elsewhere, respecting any such immigrant, and he shall be unable to produce such certificate, an extract from the said register, under the hand of the said Immigration Agent, accompanied by a certificate under his hand of the identity of such immigrant, shall be deemed good and sufficient evidence, and if at any time any immigrant shall prove to the satisfaction of the said Immigration Agent that such certificate has been lost or destroyed, he shall be entitled to receive a duplicate of the same on payment of the sum of two shillings for such duplicate.

Extract to be evidence of issue of duplicate.

Employer to report desertion of immigrant forthwith.

Publication of report.

Schedule G.

44. Every employer of any immigrant under indenture shall, within twenty-four hours from the time at which any such immigrant shall have deserted from such plantation, report such desertion at the nearest police station, stating in such report the number and name by which such immigrant is described in his indenture, with the date thereof, and any other information likely to facilitate the apprehension of such deserter, and so soon as any report of a desertion is delivered to the officer in charge of such police station, he shall copy the same and send on such report to the nearest police station in each direction, and the police officers respectively in charge of such station shall, in like manner, copy and send on such report from station to station until it reaches the Inspector of Police, and such Inspector shall, at the end of each quarter, make up and transmit to the Governor a return, in the form marked G., of all desertions so reported, and of the result up to that date, and in case any employer shall fail to comply with the provisions of this section he shall forfeit and pay a sum of not less than twenty shillings, nor more than forty shillings.

Penalty on harbouring or enticing away immigrant under indenture.

45. Every person who shall harbour, conceal, or employ any immigrant, being at the time under a written contract to labour for some other employer, or who shall remove, or entice, or solicit away from his employer any immigrant, shall, for every such offence, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding four pounds, and shall further pay to the employer to whom such immigrant shall be indentured the sum of four shillings for each day during which such immigrant shall be proved to have been so harboured or employed, and if the employer, or person in charge of any such immigrant, shall state upon oath before a justice of the peace that he has reasonable cause to suspect that such immigrant is harboured, concealed, or employed on the premises of any person, such justice of the peace may grant a warrant to search for such immigrant, and bring him or her, and the person by which such immigrant may be harboured, concealed, or employed, before him, to be dealt with as provided by this Act: Provided always, that in every case in which any dispute or difference shall arise as to whether any person who shall have harboured, concealed, or employed any immigrant being at the time under a written contract to labour, or who shall have removed or enticed away, or shall have solicited or enticed any such immigrant to remove from the employment or service of his or her employer, had knowledge of any such immigrant being at the time under such contract, the proof of the absence or want of knowledge of every such person shall be on such person, and the proof of the knowledge of such person shall not be on the party aggrieved complaining or informing.

Apprehension of immigrant wandering from estate.

46. It shall be lawful for the employer of any Chinese, Indian, or African immigrant, under a written contract to labour, for the servant of such employer, or for any member of the police force, or rural constable, to apprehend without warrant such immigrant, who, on any day on which he shall be bound to labour, shall be found at a distance of more than two miles from the estate on which he shall be engaged to labour without a ticket of leave, signed by such employer, and to cause such immigrant to be taken back to such estate, and that it shall be lawful for any member of the police force or constable, if he shall see reasonable cause for so doing, to call upon any such immigrant to produce to him his certificate of industrial residence or ticket of leave, and if such immigrant shall be unable or shall refuse so to do, then, without any unnecessary delay, to take such immigrant before the police magistrate, or any two justices, to be dealt with according to law, and that if affidavit shall be made before any justice, showing reasonable ground to suppose that any immigrant is harboured, or concealed, or employed on the premises of any person, such justice shall grant a warrant to search for such immigrant, to bring him before him to be dealt with according to law.

Half-yearly returns of immigrants by employers.

Schedule H.

47. Every employer of immigrants, under a written contract to labour, shall, on or before the tenth day of January and tenth day of July, in each and every year, make out and transmit to the Immigration Agent a return in writing of the number of immigrants who were in his service, under written contract, on the last day of the preceding month, which return shall be made out in the manner and form specified in the schedule hereto annexed, marked H., and shall be described as the return of the person with whom such immigrants shall have been under a written contract or otherwise, and shall contain a specification of the total number of such immigrants, and also of all deductions from the original number of immigrants under written contracts, as aforesaid, which shall have taken place within the last preceding six months, by death or desertion, stating the names, numbers, and vessels of import of those who may have died or deserted, and also of those who may have

returned to the performance of their contract after their desertion, giving the like description, and also of the births of any children among such immigrants, specifying the ages and sexes of such children, and the names and numbers of their parents, and also a declaration that the contents of such return are in all respects true and correct, and any person who shall neglect to transmit within fourteen days after the time specified any such return as aforesaid, shall pay a sum of forty shillings, and a like sum for each and every subsequent month during which such neglect shall continue, and any person making or signing any such return or declaration, knowing the same to be false, shall be liable to be punished as by law provided in the case of wilful and corrupt perjury.

Return to be made of immigrant imprisoned.

48. Whenever any Chinese, Indian, or African immigrant, under indenture, shall be sentenced by any court of criminal jurisdiction, or by any justice of the peace, under any Act or law in force, to any term of imprisonment, it shall be the duty of such court of criminal jurisdiction, or of such justice, as the case may be, within the period of one calendar month from the date of such sentence to cause to be delivered to the Immigration Agent a return, setting forth as accurately as may be the name of such immigrant, the name of the estate to which he is indentured, the offence of which he shall have been convicted, and the term of imprisonment to which he shall have been sentenced.

Entry in register of births, deaths, and desertions.

49. The Immigration Agent shall enter in the proper place in the register required by the tenth section of this Act, all such births and deaths as shall be reported to him under the provisions of section forty-seven, or as shall in any other manner be brought to his knowledge, and shall keep a separate book, in which shall be entered a full description of every immigrant reported to have deserted or to have been imprisoned, and the period during which he shall in consequence have been absent from the performance of his contract; and if it shall appear by such separate book that any such immigrant shall have been whether at one time or upon different occasions absent from the performance of his contract, for one month or more for each year that he shall have been indentured, it shall be lawful for the said Immigration Agent, and he is hereby required to withhold the certificate by the forty-second and forty-third sections of this Act required to be given until such immigrant shall have completed the term of industrial residence required by law.

Suspension of issue of certificate.

Provision of accommodation hospital.

50. Every estate on which such immigrants, whether indentured or not indentured, are located, shall be provided with comfortable and sufficient dwellings, and with a proper hospital and hospital furniture, medicine, and nurses, and shall have a regularly licensed medical practitioner to attend the sick, and in default thereof the proprietor of such estate shall be liable to a penalty of four pounds, and a like sum for each and every fourteen days during which such default shall continue; and that it shall be lawful for the Governor, if he shall think fit so to do, in the case of any proprietor convicted more than once of a breach of the provisions of this section within a period of three months, to direct all such immigrants to be released and discharged from all further service to such employer, and thereupon such immigrants shall be wholly discharged from such service, and the Governor may direct such immigrants to be indentured to any other employer whom he may select, and who may be willing to receive the same.

Instruction of Africans.

51. All liberated Africans of the second class shall be allowed one afternoon in each week, to be appointed by the Governor, for the purpose of receiving education and religious instruction, and any manager or other person in charge of a plantation preventing the attendance of any such African at any school on such afternoon as aforesaid, or obstructing the minister of the parish or any minister of the Christian religion, or any licensed schoolmaster duly authorized thereto by the Governor, in visiting and instructing any such African, or neglecting or refusing to provide a fit and proper place, if required so to do by the Immigration Agent until the appointment of an Inspector of Schools, and after such appointment by such inspector for the communication of such instruction shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding twenty shillings for each such offence, to be recovered upon the complaint of the Immigration Agent, or Inspector of Schools, or any person authorized by him in writing: Provided always that any such African who shall absent himself from work on such afternoon as aforesaid, and shall not attend the school provided for him, or receive instruction therein, shall be liable to be punished by fine or imprisonment, in manner and form provided by section thirty-four of this Act.

Inspection of plantation by Immigration Agent.

52. It shall be lawful for the Immigration Agent to enter into and upon any plantation where any immigrant may be employed, and to inspect the state and condition of such immigrant, and inquire into any complaint which the employer may have against any such immigrant, or any such immigrant may have against his employer.

Penalty on obstruction of Immigration Agent.

53. Every person who shall wilfully do any act whereby the Immigration Agent may be prevented or obstructed in the performance of his duty under this Act, shall, on conviction thereof before any two or more justices of the peace, forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding ten pounds for every such offence, as to the convicting justices shall seem fit.

Issue of passports to immigrants.

54. Every immigrant who shall have acquired a right to certificate of industrial residence, shall and may demand and receive from the Immigration Agent a passport which shall be delivered to him free of all charge whatsoever, and such immigrant shall thereupon be at liberty to depart from this colony on paying the expense of his own passage: Provided always that nothing in this section contained shall be deemed or taken to imply any obligation upon this colony to provide a passage for any such immigrant at any time before the expiration of the term for which he shall have consented to reside herein.

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Right to back passage of Coolies.

55. Every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, who shall arrive in this colony, and who shall have acquired a certificate of industrial residence in manner provided by the forty-second section of this Act, shall be entitled at the expiration of ten years from the time of such arrival, and upon payment to the Immigration Agent of the sum of seven pounds six shillings and ten pence, to be provided with a back passage to the port from which he sailed at the expense of this colony: Provided that if any such emigrant shall, on claiming such back passage, prove that he has been serving under indentures, or annual or longer contracts for the whole period of his residence in this colony, he shall not be required to make any such payment, and every indenture or contract which may be made under the provisions of this section shall be made in manner provided by the twenty-third section of this Act, and every employer with whom any such immigrant shall enter into such indenture or contract shall at the time of the execution of the same, in addition to the fee by the said section imposed for the preparation thereof, pay to the Immigration Agent a sum calculated at the rate of one pound nine shillings and ten pence per annum, for the period stated in such indenture or contract: Provided also, that no such immigrant shall be entitled to such back passage unless claimed within eighteen months from the period when he shall have become entitled to the same.

Free passage for invalids.

56. The Governor may order a back passage to be provided at the expense of the colony for any immigrant who may have become permanently unfit for labour, anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Governor may arrange for return passage of Indian immigrant by way of neighbouring colony.

57. In order to facilitate the return of Indian immigrants who shall be entitled to back passage wholly or in part at the expense of this colony, it shall be lawful for the Governor, when there shall not be any convenient opportunity of providing such back passage from this colony direct to the port from which such immigrant shall have sailed, to arrange with the Governor of any neighbouring colony from which there may be a convenient opportunity for the return of such immigrant by way of such colony to such port, wholly or in part at the expense of this colony, according to the term in which the immigrant may be entitled to such back passage.

Penalty on master of vessel receiving immigrant without passport.

58. It shall not be lawful for any immigrant who shall have been introduced into this colony at the public expense to depart from the colony without having first obtained a passport, in manner herein-before provided, and every master or other person in charge of any vessel who shall receive or harbour on board of such vessel, with the intention of carrying out of this colony any such immigrant who shall not have obtained such passport, shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum of twenty pounds for each and every such immigrant whom he shall have so received or harboured with such intention as aforesaid, and every such penalty shall and may be recovered for and on behalf of Her Majesty before the police magistrate or any two justices of the peace, from such master or other person being in command of any such vessel, or from the owner of such vessel.

Inspection of vessel sailing with immigrants.

59. Upon the departure of any vessel from this colony having Indian immigrants on board, returning to the port from whence they came, the Immigration Agent, accompanied by the Health Officer, shall proceed on board of such vessel, and with the assistance of such Health Officer shall ascertain by personal inspection of the vessel and immigrants whether the vessel is fit and suitable in all respects for the purpose, and whether all the arrangements made for the passage and treatment of the immigrants are in due conformity with law, and especially with the laws passed by the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India and Council for regulating the emigration of the native inhabitants of the territories under the government of the East India Company to the West Indies, and such Immigration Agent shall personally muster such immigrants, and ascertain whether they and each of them be the parties lawfully entitled to back passage, and shall certify upon the list to be by him furnished to the master of such vessel, the total number of immigrants embarked, together with the state and condition of such immigrants, and that they are provided with clothing suitable for the voyage.

Payment of health officer.

60. Such Health Officer shall be allowed as his remuneration for services performed under this Act the sum of sixpence for every immigrant on board of any such vessel arriving, and the same sum for every immigrant departing at the expense of the colony.

Immigrant using false documents.

61. If any immigrant shall fraudulently obtain, transfer, use, or attempt to use any false, forged, or counterfeit certificate of industrial residence, passport, ticket of leave, or other document referred to in this Act, or shall in any manner alter or erase any part of such document, such immigrant shall be subject on conviction to a fine not exceeding four pounds, or to imprisonment at hard labour not exceeding thirty days.

Part of all fines not exceeding one-half may be paid to the informer.

62. If any person shall be sentenced to imprisonment for any offence against this Act, or shall fail to pay any fine imposed upon him for such offence, he shall be committed to the common gaol, there to remain in conformity with his sentence, and any part not exceeding one-half of every fine imposed by this Act, may in the discretion of the presiding magistrate or justices be paid to the informer; and in any case where the party convicted shall not pay such fine, it shall be lawful for the Governor to reward such informer, provided that such reward to be so paid by the Governor shall in no case exceed four shillings.

Payment of salaries.

63. All salaries of officers granted, and all expenses incurred in virtue of this Act, shall be paid out of such funds as are raised for the purposes of immigration, and all moneys

payable by any person in virtue of any of the provisions of this Act, and which shall not be declared to be payable to any particular officer or persons shall be payable for the use of Her Majesty to the Public Treasurer or to the magistrate or justices awarding the payment of any such money, and all sums received by any such magistrate or justices or any other person, and not payable over to any particular person, shall be paid over to the Public Treasurer, and all moneys received by the Public Treasurer under this Act shall be applied to immigration purposes, and the Public Treasurer shall render to the Committee of Public Accounts quarterly a statement of all receipts and payments for immigration purposes.

Adjudication of complaints under this Act.

64. All complaints, differences, and disputes which shall arise between employer and immigrant respecting any matter or thing treated of in this Act, shall and may be heard and determined, except where otherwise specially provided, by the police magistrate or any two justices of the peace, and all penalties, forfeitures, and sums of money imposed or ordered to be paid by this Act may, unless otherwise specially directed, be recovered on summary conviction before such magistrate or justices, and it shall be lawful for the police magistrate sitting alone to do any act authorized by this Act to be done by two or more justices of the peace.

Recovery of penalties.

Mode of recovery of penalties.

65. In every case of summary conviction under this Act where the sum forfeited or ordered to be paid shall not be paid immediately after the conviction, or within such period not exceeding ten days after conviction, as the presiding magistrate or justices shall at the time of conviction appoint, it shall be lawful for the convicting magistrate or justices where the amount of the sum forfeited or ordered to be paid shall not exceed ten pounds, by warrant under his hand and seal or their hands and seals, to authorize and require any constable to levy the same, together with the costs and charges attending such levy, by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the person convicted, and in default of such distress it shall and may be lawful for such magistrate or justices to commit such person so convicted to the common gaol, there to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three calendar months, unless where a less term is hereby specially provided, or until payment of such sums so forfeited or ordered to be paid; and where the amount of the sum forfeited or ordered to be paid shall exceed ten pounds, by warrant under his hand and seal or their hands and seals, to authorize and require the provost marshal to levy the same together with the costs and charges attending such levy upon the goods and chattels, lands, tenements, and hereditaments of the person so convicted, in the same manner and under the same regulations and restrictions as he would levy under execution any debt or damages recovered in the Supreme Court of Judicature, and in default of goods and chattels, lands, tenements, and hereditaments of the person so convicted, to take the body of such person so convicted, and him to imprison in the common gaol for any term not exceeding six calendar months, unless when a less term is hereby specially provided, or until payment of such sum so forfeited or ordered to be paid.

Interpretation of terms.

66. Throughout this Act the words and expressions herein-after mentioned shall have and bear the following meanings, that is to say: the words "Her Majesty" shall mean Her Majesty, her heirs and successors; the term "Immigration Agent" shall not only mean the Immigration Agent, but also any sub-agent appointed by the Governor to act in any particular place or any particular occasion in the place and stead of the Immigration Agent; the word "Immigrant" shall include all immigrants already introduced, or who may hereafter be introduced into this colony at the expense of the British Treasury, or at the expense of this colony, or for whose introduction, although the same may be under private contract, the colony may hereafter pay bounty; the word "writing" shall also mean printing; the word "servant" shall mean any person employed and duly authorized by the proprietor of any plantation to which immigrants shall be allotted; the word "contract" and the words "written contract" shall mean also any indenture or agreement written or printed, or partly written and partly printed; the word "indenture" shall also mean contract; the word "estate" shall also mean plantation; the word "plantation" shall include any sugar, cocoa, coffee, plantain, rice, or cotton estate, or any farm or establishment on which any immigrant may be employed; the word "employer" shall include the proprietor or manager or other person having the direction of or the chief authority upon any such estate or plantation, or of or upon any farm or establishment on which any immigrant shall be employed; every word importing the singular number only shall extend and be applied to several persons or things as well as to one person or thing; every word importing the plural number shall extend and be applied to one person, matter, or thing, as well as to several persons, matters, or things; every word importing the masculine gender only shall extend and be applied to a female as well as to a male, unless in any of the cases aforesaid it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

Governor in Council to make rules for regulating proportion of sexes.

67. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council from time to time to make rules for regulating the proportion and number of each sex of any immigrants to be introduced into this colony under the provisions of this Act.

GRENADA.

A.—Section 8.

Immigration Agent's Certificate of Arrival.

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the ship (Master) arrived at this port from , on the of , bringing immigrants above fourteen years of age, between the ages of fourteen and six years, and under six years of age; that I, assisted by the Health Officer of the port, have personally inspected the said vessel and immigrants, and find that the provisions of the Imperial Passengers' Act for the time being, as far as the same are applicable, have been duly complied with, and finally, that the amount payable in respect of such immigrants is

Dated at day of , 185

A.B., Immigration Agent.

B.—Sections 16, 19, & 23.

GRENADA.

Be it remembered, that on this day of , in the year of our Lord 185 , A.B., of , and C.D., of , appeared before me, E.F., Immigration Agent of the colony of Grenada, and in my presence signed their names or marks (as the case may be) to the following contract of service. The said A.B. agrees to hire the services of the said C.D., and the said C.D. agrees to render to the said A.B., his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, services in the capacity of a , for the term of years, commencing on the day of in the year 185 , and terminating on the day of , in the year 185 . And it is further agreed between the said parties that the said C.D. shall be employed by the said A.B., his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, on plantation

And it is further agreed that the said A.B., his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, shall pay to the said C.D., as such labourer aforesaid, the same rate of wages as is paid to the labourer not under indenture or contract, working on said estate, and that such wages shall be paid. And it is further agreed, that in the event of the said plantation being sold, the said C.D. shall serve the purchaser thereof, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, and shall be paid wages by the said purchaser, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, in conformity with this contract.

A.B.
C.D.

The preceding contract was signed by the above-named parties in my presence, on the day and year above written, voluntarily, the same being, as far as I am able to judge, fully understood by them respectively.

E.F., Immigration Agent.

C.—Sections 20 & 23.

GRENADA.

This Indenture, made the day of , in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty- , between A.B., Immigration Agent in the colony of Grenada, for and on behalf of C.D., a liberated (male or female) African of the age of years, and numbered , recently sent to this colony under the authority of Her Majesty's Government, for the purpose of being located and established herein, of the one part, and E.F., of in this colony, of the other part: Witnesseth that in virtue of the Act in such cases made and provided, and in consideratio n of the covenants, promises, and agreements on the part and behalf of the said E.F. hereinafter contained, he, the said A.B., as such Immigration Agent, has indented, placed, and bound, and by these presents doth indent, place, and bind the said C.D., the African indented to and with E.F., of , to serve for the term of years, to be computed from the day of the date of these presents, and doth hereby, for and on behalf of the said C.D., to and with the said E.F., covenant, promise, and agree that the said C.D. shall and will, during all and every part of the said term of years, truly and faithfully serve the said E.F. as a labourer on plantation , and the said E.F. doth hereby covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said A.B., for and on behalf of the said C.D., that he, the said E.F., shall and will, until the said C.D. shall have attained the age of fifteen years, find and provide for and allow to the said C.D. suitable and sufficient diet, clothing, tools, or implements of work, lodging, and medical attendance, and such privileges, necessaries, and money wages as may from time to time be ordered by the Governor in Council, or be enacted touching or concerning Africans under the age of fifteen years, indented in this colony, and shall also allow to the said C.D., during the continuance of these presents, for education and religious instruction, such one afternoon in every week as shall be appointed or assigned by the Governor of the Colony for the time being.

In witness whereof, he, the said A.B., the Immigration Agent, for and on behalf of the said C.D., and he, the said E.F., have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written.

D.—SECTION 26.

Annual List of Arrivals and Allotments of Immigrants.

Number of Arrival.	Name of Vessel.	Number of Immigrants.	From what Place.	Adults.			Children between 6 and 14 Years.			Children under 6 Years.			Number of Immigrants allotted including Children.		To what Plantation allotted.	Remarks.
				M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.		

Dated at , this day of 18

A.B., Immigration Agent.

N.B. If any discrepancy occurs between the number of arrivals and those allotted, explain it in the column for remarks.

E.—SECTION 27.

Muster Roll of Plantation for the month of

Description of Immigrant.	Name.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.	10th.	11th.	12th.	13th.	14th.	15th.	16th.	17th.	18th.	19th.	20th.	21st.	22nd.	23rd.	24th.	25th.	26th.	27th.	28th.	29th.	30th.	31st.	Remarks.
Portuguese -																																	
Coolie																																	
Chinese -																																	
African -																																	

J.F. Manager or Overseer.

F.—SECTION 42.

No.

This is to certify that the immigrant herein-under described has completed his term of service (or has paid the amount required in commutation of his service) under the provisions of the Act intituled "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants."

Name.	Sex.	Description.	Remarks.

(Signed) A.B.

G.—SECTION 44.

Quarterly Return of Desertions from the District.

No.	Description of Immigrant.	Name.	Sex.	Date of Indenture.	Plantation from which deserted.	Date of Desertion.	Date of return to Service.

H.—SECTION 47.

Half-yearly Return of the entire Number of Immigrants located on Plantation in the Parish of , Grenada.

	Madras Coolies.		Calcutta Coolies.		Africans.		Portuguese.		Chinese.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number remaining at last Return - - -												
Number born, received, or returned from desertion since last return - - -												
Total - -												
Number died, departed, or deserted since last return -												
Total on the estate - -												

Specification of Birth.

Name of Infant.	Sex.	Name of Father.	Name of Mother.	Father's Number.	Father's Ship of Import.	Father's Country.

Specification of Deserters.

Name of Deserter.	Sex.	Country.	No.	Ship of Import.	Date of Desertion.

Specification of Deaths.

Name of Deceased.	Sex.	Country.	Ship of Import.	Date of Death.	Cause of Death.

Specification of Immigrants returning after Desertion.

Name of Immigrant.	Sex.	Country.	No.	Ship of Import.	Date of Return.	Date of Desertion.

I, , of Plantation , do solemnly and sincerely declare that the above is a true and correct return of the Immigrants on Plantation , on the day of , 18 , as required by the 47th Clause of the Act, intituled "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants."

(Signature)

Passed the Assembly this fourth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

(Signed) JOHN WELLS, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council this fifth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

(Signed) SAMUEL MITCHELL, Acting Clerk of Council.

Dated at Grenada the eighth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

(Signed) HENRY GARRAWAY, Speaker.

[L.M.S.] (Signed) ROBT. W. KEATE, Lieutenant-Governor.

Assented to by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief this eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and in the nineteenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) SAMUEL MITCHELL, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Duly proclaimed in the town of St. George, in the island of Grenada, this eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and in the nineteenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) JAMES ROBERTSON, Acting Provost Marshal.

APPENDIX No. 23.

(J. WALKER.) No 533.

AN ACT* to amend the Act intituled "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants." [July 23, 1856.]

BE it enacted by the Governor, the Council, and Assembly of the island of Grenada and its Dependencies, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, as follows:

C. 55 of Act 230 repealed.

1. The fifty-fifth Clause of the Act, intituled "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

Right of Coolies to back passage.

2. Every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, who shall arrive in this colony, and who shall have acquired a certificate of industrial residence in manner provided by the forty-second Clause of the said recited Act, shall be entitled, at the expiration of ten years from the time of such arrival, and upon payment to the Immigration Agent of the sum of seven pounds five shillings and ten pence, to be provided with a back passage to the port from which he sailed at the expense of this colony: Provided that no such payment shall be required of any such immigrant who shall enter into indentures of service for the last five years of the period of his engagement, each contract to be of not less than one year's duration, or who shall pay to the Immigration Agent the sum of two pounds ten shillings for each such year during which he has not been under contract; and every indenture or contract which may be made under the provisions of this clause shall be made in manner provided by the twenty-third Clause of the said Act; and every employer with whom any such immigrant shall enter into such indenture or contract, shall, at the time of the execution of the same, in addition to the fee by the said clause imposed for the preparation thereof, pay to the Immigration Agent a sum calculated at the rate of one pound nine shillings and two pence per annum for the period stated in such indenture or contract: Provided also, that no such immigrant shall be entitled to such back passage, unless claimed within eighteen months from the period when he shall have become entitled to the same.

Contracts made in pursuance of c. 13 of recited Act to be subject to provisions in clauses 19 and 22 of same Act.

3. Every contract made under or in pursuance of the thirteenth Clause of the said recited Act shall be subject to the provisions contained in the nineteenth and twenty-second Clauses of the said Act.

Incorporation of this Act with Act 230.

4. This Act shall be construed as one Act with the said recited Act.

Passed the Assembly this fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

(Signed) JOHN WELLS, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council this fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

(Signed) SAMUEL MITCHELL, Acting Clerk of Council.

Dated at Grenada this twenty-third day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

(Signed) HENRY GARRAWAY, Speaker.

[L.M.S.] (Signed) JAMES WALKER.

Assented to by his Excellency the Administrator of the Government and Commander-in-Chief this twenty-third day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and in the twentieth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

(Signed) SAMUEL MITCHELL, Acting Colonial Secretary.

* Left to its operation with other Acts, by order in Council, enclosed in Mr. Labouchere's despatch, No. 31, November 10, 1856.

GRENADA.

Duly published in the town of St. George, in the Island of Grenada, this twenty-third day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and in the twentieth year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) HENRY SHARPE, Provost Marshal.

APPENDIX No. 24.

No. 536.

(J. WALKER.)

AN ACT to amend the Act intituled "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants." [September 24, 1856.]

BE it enacted, by the Governor, the Council and Assembly of the island of Grenada and its Dependencies, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Clause 55 of Act 230 repealed.

1. The fifty-fifth clause of the Act intituled "An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immigration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants," shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

Right of Coolies to back passage.

2. Every immigrant from Her Majesty's dominions in the East Indies, or from the possessions of the East India Company, who shall arrive in this colony, and who shall have acquired a certificate of industrial residence in manner provided by the forty-second clause of the said recited Act, shall be entitled at the expiration of ten years from the time of such arrival, and upon payment to the immigration agent of the sum of seven pounds five shillings and tenpence, to be provided with a back passage to the port from which he sailed at the expense of this colony; provided that no such payment shall be required of any such immigrant who shall enter into indentures of service for the last five years of the period of his engagement, each contract being of not less than one year's duration, or who shall pay to the immigration agent the sum of two pounds ten shillings for each such year during which he has not been under contract; and every indenture or contract which may be made under the provisions of this clause shall be made in manner provided by the twenty-third clause of the said Act; and every employer with whom any such immigrant shall enter into such indenture or contract shall, at the time of the execution of the same, in addition to the fee by the said clause imposed for the preparation thereof, pay to the immigration agent a sum calculated at the rate of one pound nine shillings and twopence per annum for the period stated in such indenture or contract: Provided also, that no such immigrant shall be entitled to such back passage, unless claimed within eighteen months from the period when he shall have become entitled to the same.

Compensation to Indian when entitled to back passage.

3. There shall be paid to every Indian immigrant entitled to, and who shall claim back passage, twenty-five shillings for every half-year which may intervene between his application for and the actual offer of or opportunity for such back passage, and so in proportion for any less period than six calendar months during which any such Indian immigrant so entitled to and having claimed a return passage may be detained in this colony for want of opportunity for such back passage.

Employment of interpreters.

4. In order to secure to immigrants from the East Indies the means of communication in their own language, there shall, when practicable, be embarked from the port of departure in India one person capable of acting and engaged to act as interpreter for every one hundred such immigrants, which person, or some other duly qualified person, shall be employed so to act in this colony at a reasonable salary, to be paid on the warrant of the Governor out of the funds provided for immigration purposes.

Governor in Council may make regulations for securing and transmitting property of deceased immigrants.

5. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council from time to time to make regulations for securing the savings and accumulations of property belonging to Indian immigrants who may die in this colony leaving property for the benefit of the relatives of such deceased immigrants, and for the realization of such property and the transmission thereof to the relatives in India of such deceased immigrants.

Governor in Council may allow certain holidays.

6. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council from time to time to make regulations for allowing to any Indian labourers such holidays or days to be observed as religious festivals as to him shall seem meet.

Contracts made under clause 13 of recited Act to be subject to provisions in clauses 19 and 22 of same Act.

7. Every contract made under or in pursuance of the thirteenth clause of the said recited Act shall be subject to the provisions contained in the nineteenth and twenty-second clauses of the said Act.

Incorporation of this Act with Act 230 and repeal of Act 251.

8. This Act shall be construed as one Act with the said recited Act and the Act passed by the Legislature of Grenada on the twenty-third day of July one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, intituled "An Act to amend the Act intituled 'An Act to alter the Law of Contracts with regard to Immigrants, and for the Encouragement of Immi-

gration, and for the general Regulation of Immigrants,'" shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

Passed the Assembly the third day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

(Signed) JOHN WELLS, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council the third day of September, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

(Signed) SAMUEL MITCHELL, Acting Clerk of Council.

Dated at Grenada this twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

(Signed) HENRY GARRAWAY, Speaker.

[L.M.S.] (Signed) JAMES WALKER.

Assented to by his Excellency the Administrator of the Government and Commander-in-Chief, this twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and in the twentieth year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) SAMUEL MITCHELL, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Duly published in the town of St. George, in the island of Grenada, this twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and in the twentieth year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) HENRY SHARPE, Provost Marshal.

St. Lucia.

APPENDIX No. 25.

3d March, 1854, No. 2. AN ORDINANCE enacted by his Excellency Maurice Power, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of St. Lucia and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, and by the Legislative Council thereof, &c. &c. &c.,

To raise a Loan for promoting the Immigration of Coolie Labourers into the Island of St. Lucia.

WHEREAS it is expedient to raise a loan under the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 11 & 12 Vict. c. 130, entitled "An Act for guaranteeing the Interest on such Loans, not exceeding Five hundred thousand Pounds, as may be raised by the British Colonies, on the Continent of South America, in the West Indies, and the Mauritius, for certain Purposes," for the purpose of providing funds for the introduction into this colony of Coolie immigrants: Be it therefore enacted and ordained by his Excellency Maurice Power, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor in and over the Island of St. Lucia and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral thereof, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of Government, in exercise of the power and authority in him and them vested by Her Majesty in that behalf:

1. That it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons duly appointed on that behalf, by Her Majesty the Queen, Her heirs and successors, to raise and borrow by loan, debenture, or otherwise, such sums as may from time to time be required for the purposes aforesaid, not exceeding in the whole the sum of fifteen thousand pounds sterling, money of Great Britain and Ireland: Provided always, that the amount which the said Commissioners may be empowered by the proper authority to raise and borrow at any one time, shall not be less than one thousand pounds.

2. And be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any persons so appointed by Her Majesty to take any steps for raising the said loan, until it shall be notified to them, in such manner as one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State shall be pleased to direct, that due and ample provision has been made by an Ordinance passed by the Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council of this colony and confirmed and allowed by Her Majesty, which Ordinance shall be declared to be in force so long as any portion of the amount of the principal or interest of the said loan shall remain unliquidated, for paying out of the public revenue of this colony interest upon the principal amount of the said loan at a rate not exceeding four per cent. per annum, and a further sum at the rate of two and a half per cent. per annum upon the principal amount of the said loan to be appropriated to the formation of a sinking fund for the redemption of the same.

3. And be it enacted, That the securities, whether bond, debenture, or other document upon which the said loan may be obtained, shall be issued for a period of not less than twenty years, and shall not be redeemable before the expiration of that period.

4. And be it further enacted, That the amount of the loan raised under the said securities may and shall be remitted to this colony, and the annual interest and sinking fund of the loan may and shall be remitted to Great Britain, in such manner and at such times as the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may be pleased to direct, and further, that it shall be lawful for the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to invest the said sinking fund in the public funds of Great Britain, in such manner as to the said Lords Commissioners may appear expedient and right.

5. And whereas it is necessary to guarantee the payment of interest on the said loan at a rate not less than four per cent. per annum, until the said loan shall have been re-paid, and also to provide a fund for the gradual redemption or sinking fund of the said loan, at a rate not exceeding two-and-a-half per cent. upon the principal amount of the said loan, as also to provide for any further sum on account of interest which may become due, under section 3rd of the above cited Imperial Act: Be it enacted, that there shall be levied and paid a duty on all sugar, rum, and molasses exported from this colony, at and after the following rates, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Sugar, for every hundred pounds - - -	0	0	3
Rum, per puncheon - - - - -	0	1	0
Molasses, per puncheon - - - -	0	0	6

6. And be it enacted, That if the amount of the said taxes or duties received by the Treasurer in any year shall be insufficient to meet the charge for the said annual interest and sinking fund, the amount of the deficiency shall be paid out of any other moneys at the credit of the immigration funds of this colony, and if no other moneys shall be at the credit of the said fund, then, and in such case, such deficiency shall constitute, and is hereby declared to constitute the first charge upon, and the amount thereof shall be paid

out of the general revenue of this colony, next after the charge imposed by the Ordinance No. 1, of the twenty-eighth March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, entitled "An Ordinance for enabling the Officer Administering the Government of St. Lucia to raise by way of Loan, in Great Britain or elsewhere, a Sum of Money for procuring a permanent Supply of Fresh Water for the Town of Castries, and for the better and more easy effecting of such Supply;" and after the charge imposed by the Ordinance, No. 6, of 13th February, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, entitled "An Ordinance to raise a Loan for the Formation and Repair of Roads in this Island;" and the Ordinance, No. 7, of 13th February, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, entitled "An Ordinance to raise Funds for promoting the Education of the Inhabitants of this Island, and for facilitating their Means of Intercourse by the Construction and Maintenance of Roads and Bridges."

7. And be it enacted, In order to ensure the more accurate collection of the rates and duties on exports, by Section 5 of this Ordinance imposed, that every shipper of sugar, rum, or molasses shall deliver at the Treasury, previous to paying the Colonial duties, a list containing in separate columns the mark, number, truss, and net weight of every cask or barrel of sugar shipped, the weight to be determined by the size of the truss, as regulated by Schedule A. to this Ordinance annexed, to which list shall be attached a declaration by such shipper, that the contents therein are true and correct according to his belief and knowledge, and in the said declaration shall be named the estate on which such article of export was raised, and the number, weight, and description of all other packages of exports; and previous to granting a clearance to any vessel taking produce, the treasurer shall require from the master of such vessel a manifest setting forth the marks and contents of all packages received on board, and the landing-waiter shall adopt any measure required for ascertaining the correctness of such manifest, and if any false or incorrect manifest be delivered, or any fraud be committed, such landing-water shall report the same to the treasurer, who shall proceed against the parties, and every such shipper of goods or other person delivering a false manifest or declaration, and any master of vessel omitting to give in a manifest as aforesaid, every such person shall for every such fraudulent act or omission forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds nor less than twenty pounds sterling, exclusive of all costs or charges for the recovery of the same; and all goods and articles of export which shall have been omitted or incorrectly described in any such shipper's list and declaration shall be seized and sold by public auction by direction of the treasurer.

8. And be it enacted, That in the construction of this Ordinance the words "Lieutenant-Governor" shall mean not only the Lieutenant-Governor, but also the Governor-in-Chief, or Officer Administering the Government for the time being, as the construction of this Ordinance may from time to time require; and the word "Treasurer" shall mean Her Majesty's Treasurer, or any person duly authorized to act as such; and the word "Landing-Waiter" shall mean the landing-water or any other person duly qualified to act as such; and all words importing the singular number or masculine gender only, shall be understood to include several persons as well as one person, and females as well as males, and mercantile firms or co-partnerships as well as individuals; and the word "cask" shall include hogshead, puncheon, barrel, or other vessel; and the words "master of vessel" shall mean the person having charge or being in command thereof for the time being, whether owner or otherwise, unless it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

9. And be it enacted, That this Ordinance shall come into force on, from, and after the proclamation thereof: Provided always, that it shall not be proclaimed until it shall have been duly ratified and confirmed by Her Majesty: And provided also, and it is hereby declared, that the said Ordinance shall be and continue in force so long as any portion of the amount of the principal or interest of the said loan of fifteen thousand pounds shall remain unliquidated.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the said Island of St. Lucia, this third day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and in the seventeenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By Command,

J. V. DRYSDALE, Colonial Secretary.

APPENDIX No. 26.

(MAURICE POWER, Lieut.-Governor.)

SAINT LUCIA.—22nd April 1854.—No. 3.

AN ORDINANCE, enacted by his Excellency Maurice Power, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of St. Lucia and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, and by the Legislative Council thereof, &c. &c. &c.,

To provide for the Immigration of Coolies into this Colony at the public Expense, and for the Regulation and Government of such Immigrants.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the introduction of labourers from Her Majesty's possessions in the East Indies into this colony in vessels employed hired, or Preamble.

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Words of Enactment.

licensed, or permitted by Her Majesty's Government, and it is necessary to make provisions for the due payment of the expense incurred on any such account by Her Majesty's Government; and whereas it is also necessary to make regulations for the good government of all such immigrants: Be it therefore and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by his Excellency Maurice Power, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of St. Lucia and its dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of Government, in the exercise of the powers and authority in him and them vested by Her Majesty in that behalf.

Expenses incurred in sending immigrants into this colony to be borne by the colony.

1. That all expenditure incurred by Her Majesty's Government in the hiring, employing, and licensing of any vessel for bringing or sending immigrants into this colony from any of Her Majesty's possessions in the East Indies, in providing for the maintenance and clothing of such immigrants during their passage or otherwise, in employing on board any such vessel a surgeon, and such other just expenditure as shall be caused by and be necessarily incidental to such immigration to this colony, and all just expenditure caused by and necessarily incidental to sending back any such immigrants at the expiration of their industrial residence to the place from which they shall have been brought or sent into this colony, shall be paid by the colony.

Lieut.-Governor to appoint Immigration Agent.

Immigration Agent's salary to be payable three months before arrival of immigrants.

2. And be it enacted, that the Lieutenant-Governor may from time to time nominate and appoint some fit and proper person resident in this colony to be Agent of Immigration, who shall be paid annually a salary not exceeding fifty pounds sterling: Provided always, that no such salary shall be payable to such Immigration Agent until three months before the arrival of such immigrants.

Register to be kept by Immigration Agent, and in what manner.

3. And be it enacted, that the Immigration Agent shall keep a "Register," in which shall be inserted the names of all Coolie immigrants who may be hereafter introduced into this colony at the public expense, and shall number each of such emigrants by a particular number, commencing with the number one, and proceeding by regular numerical progression, and shall distinguish therein under different heads, the number, name, age, and sex of every such immigrant, and the time when, and the place from which, and the vessel in which such immigrant shall have arrived, and also the amount of the monies, if any, which may have been advanced to each immigrant previous to his embarkation, and which are to be repaid by such immigrant out of his wages in this colony.

Immigration Agent to assign services of the Coolie immigrant for a period not exceeding three years, according to the form in Schedule A.

4. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Immigration Agent to assign the services of any such Coolie immigrant as may be introduced into this colony at the public expense, to such person and in respect to such estate, as to the Lieutenant-Governor may seem fit, and that each employer before he shall become entitled to the services of such immigrants shall enter into a contract with each immigrant for a period not exceeding three years; which contract shall be according to the form annexed, marked A., or in such other form as may be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor, and shall be signed or acknowledged by the parties thereto before some stipendiary justice of the peace, or such other person as the Lieutenant-Governor may appoint in that behalf.

Twenty shillings to be paid on every assignment for the first year and twenty-five shillings for every subsequent year.

5. And be it enacted, that upon every such assignment there shall be payable to Her Majesty for every such Coolie immigrant whose services may be so assigned, the sum of twenty shillings for the first year for which such services shall be assigned, which sum shall be paid to the Immigration Agent at the time of the execution of such assignment, and the annual sum of twenty-five shillings for every subsequent year of such services, which annual sum shall be paid yearly in advance to the Immigration Agent by the person in possession of the estate in respect of which such services shall have been so assigned.

Immigrant to enter into a new contract on the expiration of the first assignment, or to pay 2*l.* 10*s.* annually until his five years' industrial residence be completed.

6. And be it enacted, that on the expiration of the first assignment of any Coolie immigrant under a contract of service for a term not exceeding three years, such immigrant shall be required to enter into a new contract of service with the same or some other employer, for a further term of not less than twelve months and not more than two years: Provided always, that such further industrial service may be commuted or redeemed on payment to Her Majesty by every such immigrant of a sum equal to fifty shillings sterling for each year remaining to complete an industrial residence of five years.

Immigration Agent to assign services of Coolie immigrant anew, should he fail to commute his further term of industrial residence.

Sum to be paid for assignment.

7. And be it enacted, that if after the expiration of the first three years' industrial residence any Coolie immigrant shall not avail himself of the right of commuting his further term of industrial residence, it shall be lawful for the Immigration Agent to assign the services of such Coolie immigrant to the same or some other employer, and in respect of such estate, as to the Lieutenant-Governor may seem fit, which assignment shall be enforced under indenture as aforesaid, for a period not exceeding two years; and in every such case there shall be payable to Her Majesty by the person to whom such services may be so assigned the sum of twenty-five shillings for each year for which such services shall be so assigned, which sum shall be paid yearly in advance to the Immigration Agent by the person in possession of the estate to which such services shall have been so assigned.

Certificate of discharge how to be entitled to.

8. And be it enacted, that on the expiration of the first five years after his introduction into this colony, every Coolie immigrant who shall have so served under contract of service as aforesaid, or who shall have so redeemed or commuted by a money payment, as herein-before provided, the further industrial service required of him on the expiration of his original contract for three years, shall be considered to have completed an industrial residence of five years, and shall be entitled to a certificate of discharge, and it shall no longer be obligatory on any such Coolie immigrant to enter into any further contract of

service, but he shall be at liberty to hire or dispose of his services, or to change his residence in the same manner as any other labourer not being a Coolie immigrant.

Sum to be paid by immigrant to entitle him to a return passage to India.

9. And be it enacted, that in consideration of the advantage of being exempted from the obligation of all further industrial service under indenture after the first five years, so conceded to immigrants introduced into this colony at the public expense, every such immigrant shall be required to pay such sum towards defraying the cost of his return passage to India, as the Lieutenant-Governor may at any time hereafter by proclamation appoint: Provided always, that such sum shall in no case exceed the annual contribution of thirty shillings, or seven pounds ten shillings sterling for the whole period required to complete a residence of ten years.

Deduction from wages for advances made to Coolie immigrants.

10. And be it enacted, that the manager or other person in charge of the estate in respect of which the services of any such Coolie immigrant shall be in the first instance so assigned or transferred, shall be bound to deduct by monthly instalments of four shillings from the wages of such Coolie immigrant the amount mentioned in each assignment so advanced to such Coolie immigrant previous to his embarkation, and shall pay over the amount so deducted to the Immigration Agent, and the monies so paid over shall be paid by the Immigration Agent to the Treasurer for the benefit of the person by whom such amount shall have been advanced: Provided always, that in case of default or neglect on the part of such manager or other person in charge of the estate to which the services of any such Coolie immigrant shall be assigned, to pay to the Immigration Agent the amount of such monthly instalments on account of advances made to such Coolie immigrants, the same shall be recoverable in a summary manner before any court of competent jurisdiction on complaint to be laid in the name of the Immigration Agent.

In default of payment of advances to be recoverable in a summary manner before any court of competent authority.

Wages, allowances, medical care, &c.

11. And be it enacted, that every person in possession of an estate in respect of which the services of any such Coolie immigrant may be so assigned or transferred, shall be bound to provide proper and sufficient medical care, and proper and sufficient medicine and attendance for such Coolie immigrants, and every employer who shall neglect to retain a medical practitioner to attend upon the immigrants in his employ, or who shall fail or neglect to supply proper medicine or nourishment for any such immigrant when sick, or who shall wilfully ill-treat any immigrant in his employ, or who shall fail or neglect to supply to any such immigrant any article of food or clothing, or to pay any wages to which such immigrant shall be entitled, shall on conviction thereof before any competent court forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding ten pounds sterling for every offence, as to the court shall seem fit, or in default may be adjudged to imprisonment not exceeding thirty days: Provided always, that it shall at the same time be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor, if he shall see fit, to determine the contract of service of such immigrant, and also of any other immigrants in the employ of the same employer, and to assign such immigrants to some other person and in respect of some other estate, for the residue of the original terms of service of such immigrant respectively.

Lieut.-Governor may determine assignment and transfer to some other person the unexpired services of immigrant.

Amount payable to Her Majesty for transfer of the services of Coolie immigrant when and what time.

12. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in any case where he shall see fit, to determine any such assignment, and to transfer the services of such Coolie immigrant to some other person and in respect of some other estate, for the residue of the unexpired term of the contract under which the services of such Coolie immigrant may have been assigned, and such transfer shall be in writing, signed by the Immigration Agent, and shall be enforced under indenture as aforesaid; and the person to whom such services shall be so transferred shall be bound to pay to Her Majesty the sum of twenty shillings for the current year, which sum shall be paid to the Immigration Agent at the time of the execution of such transfer, and the annual sum of twenty-five shillings for every subsequent year of such service, which annual sum shall be paid yearly in advance to the Immigration Agent; and the person in favour of whom the prior assignment so determined shall have been made shall forfeit all money which he shall have paid in respect of such assignment.

Coolie immigrant to continue his services on any estate to which he may be assigned or transferred.

13. And be it enacted, that every Coolie immigrant whose services may be so assigned or transferred, shall be bound to continue to work on the estate in respect of which his services shall have been so assigned or transferred, notwithstanding that the person to whom his services may have been assigned or transferred shall die, or the estate in respect of which such services shall have been assigned shall be sold or demised, and in every such case the right to the services of such Coolie immigrant during the residue of the term of the contract under which the services of such Coolie immigrant may have been assigned shall vest in the person or persons to whom such estate shall be devised or descend or be sold or demised.

Hours of labour and holidays.

14. And be it enacted, that every such Coolie immigrant whose services shall be so assigned or transferred, in the absence of an express agreement to the contrary between such Coolie immigrant and the person entitled to his services under such assignment or transfer, shall be bound to work upon or in the services of the estate in respect of which his services shall be due for nine hours of each day, Sunday, Good Friday, Christmas-day, New Year's-day, and Corpus Christi only excepted.

Penalty on persons employing any Coolie immigrants under assignment.

15. And be it enacted, that if any person shall harbour or receive into his employment any Coolie immigrant to whose services any other person may be entitled under any assignment or transfer of services then unexpired and in force, every such person on conviction before a stipendiary justice of the peace, on the complaint of the Immigration Agent, or of the person entitled to such services, or of the manager or other person in charge of

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the estate in respect of which such services shall be due, and which complaint may belong at any time within twelve calendar months next after the day on which such Coolie immigrant may be so employed, shall forfeit and pay to Her Majesty the sum of ten pounds sterling, and to the person entitled to such services under such assignment the sum of eight shillings for each day during which such Coolie immigrant shall be so harboured or employed.

Penalty on Coolie immigrant absent from work without excuse.

16. And be it enacted, that every Coolie immigrant whose services shall be so assigned or transferred, who during the continuance of such assignment or transfer shall without lawful excuse absent himself from his work, shall on conviction before a stipendiary justice of the peace forfeit two days' wages for each and every day he shall be so absent; the said penalty to be deducted from any wages due to such immigrant, and in the event of no wages being due, then such immigrant shall for every such offence be imprisoned with hard labour for any time not exceeding fourteen days, as to the convicting justice shall seem fit.

Apprehension of vagrant Coolie immigrant.

17. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for every person entitled to the services of any Coolie immigrant by virtue of an assignment or transfer of such services under this Ordinance, or any servant of any such person, or for any constable to apprehend without warrant such Coolie immigrant, being found at a distance of more than two miles from the estate in respect of which his services shall be due without a written ticket of leave, signed by the manager or person in charge of such estate, and to cause such Coolie immigrant to be taken back to such estate.

Immigration Agent, stipendiary magistrate, justice of the peace, or police constable to stop any Coolie immigrant wherever found, and to demand certificate of residence or discharge.

18. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Immigration Agent or stipendiary or other justice of the peace, or any police constable, to stop any Coolie immigrant wherever he may find him, and also for the owner or occupier, or the servant of the owner or occupier of any land or house, to stop any such Coolie immigrant found upon or about such land or house, and if such Coolie immigrant being so required shall fail to produce his certificate of residence or a certificate of his discharge, or a written ticket of leave signed by the manager or person in charge of the estate in respect of which his services may be due, to take such Coolie immigrant forthwith before some neighbouring stipendiary justice of the peace, and such stipendiary justice shall forthwith inquire into the case, and unless such Coolie immigrant shall make it appear to the satisfaction of such stipendiary justice that he has completed such residence or obtained such discharge, or that he is absent from the estate in respect of which his services shall be due with the leave of the manager or other person in charge of such estate, then and in such case such stipendiary justice shall make order for the immediate committal of such Coolie immigrant to imprisonment with hard labour in the royal gaol for a term not exceeding fourteen days.

Penalty on Coolie immigrant guilty of any misconduct or practise any fraud or deception, damage to property, &c.

19. And be it enacted, that any immigrant as aforesaid who shall be guilty of any misconduct, or practise any fraud or deception in the performance of any work which he is bound to perform, or shall by negligence or other improper conduct lose, throw away, or damage the property of his employer, or shall endanger such property by the careless use of fire, or shall wilfully maim, wound, or cruelly ill-use any live stock or cattle belonging to his employer or entrusted to his care, or by negligence shall suffer to be maimed, wounded, or cruelly ill-used any such cattle or live stock, shall on conviction before a special stipendiary justice suffer such punishment by fine or imprisonment until the same be paid, or imprisonment in any lawful place of confinement, with or without hard labour, for the whole or any part of such imprisonment, not to exceed thirty days, as such convicting justice shall deem fit.

Employers to send in half-yearly list of registered immigrants.

20. And be it enacted, that every employer of such registered Coolie immigrants shall within ten days next after the 30th day of June and 31st of December in each year, send in to the Immigration Agent a true and correct return according to the form in Schedule C. to this Ordinance annexed, of all such registered Coolie immigrants who may have been in his employ at any time during the preceding six months, specifying the name and sex of each such immigrant, and whether such immigrant shall be under a written agreement for labour or not, and the date of such agreement, the number of days' labour performed by each immigrant, and the number of days during which he shall have absented himself from his work, and also of all deductions from the original number of immigrants under written contract which shall have taken place within the last preceding six months, by death or desertion, and also of the births of any children among such immigrants, specifying the ages and sexes of such children, with such remarks as may be required for showing the state and condition of such immigrants.

Lieut.-Governor may call on employer for further returns.

21. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor from time to time to require from every employer of any such registered immigrants such further return as the Lieutenant-Governor may see fit to direct, as to the number, state, and condition of such registered immigrants; and every such employer shall be bound to send in such return to the Immigration Agent or other person duly appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor for that purpose, within one calendar month next after he shall have been notified so to do.

Special magistrates and officers may enter on estates, and inspect, &c., state of registered immigrants.

22. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the stipendiary justice and other persons duly authorized by the Lieutenant-Governor for that purpose, to enter into and upon any estate where any such registered immigrant may be employed and to inspect the state and condition of all registered immigrants whom he may find upon such estate,

and inquire into any complaint which the employer may have against such immigrant, or such immigrant may have against his employer.

Penalties on parties obstructing, &c. special justice, or persons authorized to enter estates.

23. And be it enacted, that every person who shall obstruct such stipendiary magistrate or other person duly authorized by the Lieutenant-Governor for that purpose, in entering upon any estate where any such immigrant shall be employed, or shall be by such stipendiary magistrate or other person duly authorized by the Lieutenant-Governor for that purpose, reasonably supposed to be employed, or shall wilfully do any act whereby such stipendiary magistrate or other person duly authorized by the Lieutenant-Governor for that purpose, may be prevented or obstructed in inspecting the state and condition of any such registered immigrant whom he may find on such estate; and every employer of any such registered immigrant who shall fail to send in to the Immigration Agent or other person duly appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor for that purpose such half-yearly return as aforesaid, or shall neglect or refuse to send in such further return as may be required by the Lieutenant-Governor within one calendar month after such persons shall have been notified so to do, or shall wilfully make any false return, shall on conviction thereof before any competent court forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding ten pounds sterling for every such offence as to the Court shall seem fit, or in default to imprisonment not exceeding thirty days.

Free passage back to India.

24. And be it enacted, that every Coolie immigrant introduced into this colony, under this Ordinance, who shall have completed a residence of ten years, of which term five years must have been an industrial residence, and who shall have paid to the Immigration Agent the amount of contribution towards the cost of his return passage, as shall have been appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, by proclamation as herein-before directed, shall thereupon be entitled to a free passage back to India: Provided always, that in any case where any Coolie immigrant shall have paid any part or the whole of such contribution towards to the cost of his return passage, and shall on the expiration of his ten years' residence renounce and abandon his right or title to such return passage, it shall be lawful for the Immigration Agent to refund to such Coolie immigrant who shall have so completed a residence of ten years, and who shall have so renounced his right to a free passage back to India, all monies which may have been so paid or contributed by such immigrant towards such return passage.

Immigrant may commute his right to a free return passage on receiving an adequate portion of Crown land.

25. And be it enacted, that when any Coolie immigrant shall be desirous to commute his right to a free passage, for the value in land to the amount of the cost of such passage, and the Lieutenant-Governor shall see fit to grant to such immigrant out of the Crown lands of the colony a piece or parcel of land equal in value at the upset price of Crown lands to the amount of the cost of such return passage, such immigrant shall have the same in lieu of his right to a free passage.

Immigrant not to depart from the colony without a licence from Immigration Agent.

26. And be it enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any Coolie immigrant introduced into this colony at the public expense to depart from this colony without a licence in writing, signed by the Immigration Agent, and every master or other person in charge of any vessel who shall knowingly receive or harbour on board such vessel or agree to receive on board of such vessel, with the intention of carrying out of this colony any such Coolie immigrant whose name shall appear in such register and who shall not have obtained such licence, shall on conviction thereof, before a stipendiary justice of the peace, forfeit and pay to Her Majesty the sum of twenty pounds sterling for each and every such Coolie Immigrant whom he shall have so received or harboured or agreed to receive with said intention as aforesaid.

Penalty on master of vessel for receiving any immigrant not provided with a licence.

Immigration Agent not to grant any licence to leave but after an industrial residence of five years.

27. And be it enacted, that no licence to leave this colony shall be delivered by the immigration Agent to any such Coolie immigrant until he shall have completed an industrial residence of five years within this colony, as herein-before provided, unless the Lieutenant-Governor shall make order in writing, under his hand, for the return of any such Coolie immigrant to the place whence he may have come, before the expiration of the said term of five years.

All monies under this Ordinance made payable to Her Majesty, to be a first charge on the estate.

28. And be it enacted, that all monies by this Ordinance made payable to Her Majesty in respect of the services of any Coolie immigrant, whose services may be assigned or transferred, under this Ordinance, shall be a first charge on the estate, in respect of which such services shall be so assigned or transferred.

Immigration Agent to pay over to Her Majesty's Treasurer all monies received under this ordinance.

Treasurer to keep a separate account, to be called immigration fund.

How such fund is to be applied. Accounts to be laid before Legislative Council.

29. And be it enacted, that the Immigration Agent shall pay over to Her Majesty's Treasurer all monies which may be received by such Immigration Agent under this Ordinance, and all such monies paid to Her Majesty under the Ordinance shall be carried by the treasurer to a separate account to be called the "immigration fund," and shall be applied to the payment of salaries of officers and all other expenses incurred in virtue of this Ordinance for the general purposes of immigration, and an account of all such monies shall be laid before the Legislative Council on the 1st day of January and the 1st day of July in each and every year, or at the first sitting of the Council, after the said dates respectively.

Mode of recovering assignments and penalties, &c. under this ordinance.

30. And be it enacted, that all monies payable on the assignment of the services of such immigrants, or by way of penalty, shall be recoverable in a summary manner before any court of competent jurisdiction, on complaint to be laid in the name of Her Majesty's Treasurer, when such monies shall be payable for the use of the colony, and on the complaint of the employer when the same shall be payable to such employer.

Penalty on immigrant pretending to have completed a residence of ten years or using as his own the certifi-

31. And be it enacted, that any Coolie immigrant who shall falsely and fraudulently pretend that he has completed a residence of ten years within this colony, or who shall

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cate of residence or discharge of some other Coolie immigrant.

wilfully use as his own any certificate of residence or discharge which shall have been granted to any other Coolie immigrant, or who shall lend his certificate of residence or of discharge to any other Coolie immigrant, and any Coolie immigrant or other person who shall wilfully counterfeit or alter any such certificate, shall, on conviction thereof before any stipendiary justice of the peace, be imprisoned with hard labour for such term not exceeding three calendar months as to the convicting justice shall seem fit.

Proof of the handwriting of Immigration Agent to be sufficient evidence.

32. And be it enacted, that proof of the handwriting of the Immigration Agent to any assignment or transfer of the services of any Coolie immigrant, or to any certificate or other document mentioned in this Ordinance, shall be sufficient evidence of the execution of the same, and of the facts mentioned in such assignment, transfer, certificate, or other documents.

Onus probandi.

33. And be it enacted, that when any question shall arise whether any Coolie immigrant has completed a residence of ten years within this colony, the burthen of proof shall lie on the Coolie immigrant or other person alleging that such Coolie immigrant has completed such residence.

Coolie immigrant not to be distrained; nor imprisoned for debt whilst under indenture.

34. And be it enacted, that no Coolie immigrant shall be liable, whilst under indenture of service in terms of this Ordinance, to imprisonment for debt, and that it shall not be lawful for any creditor of such immigrant to attach his wages or levy upon his goods or chattels during the continuance of such indenture, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Words of construction and generalization.

35. And be it enacted, that in the construction of this Ordinance the words "Her Majesty" shall mean Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors; the words "Lieutenant-Governor" shall mean any person who for the time being shall be in the lawful administration of the government of this colony; the word "Treasurer" shall mean Her Majesty's Treasurer for this island; the word "vessel" shall mean and include all kinds of craft, boats, pirogues, or canoes; the word "estate" shall mean every estate whereon a sugar manufactory is established; the word "employer" shall mean the proprietor or manager or any person having the direction of or the chief authority upon any such estate on which any immigrant shall be employed; the word "servant" shall mean any person employed and duly authorized by the proprietor of any estate to which immigrants shall be allotted; and the words importing the singular number or masculine gender only shall be understood to include several matters as well as one matter, and several things as well as one thing, and females as well as males, unless there be something in the subject or context plainly to exclude such construction.

Ordinance when to be in force.

36. And be it enacted, that the present Ordinance shall be in force and take effect from and after the proclamation thereof.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the said island of Saint Lucia, this twenty-second day of April, in the year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and in the seventeenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By command,
(Signed) J. F. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

SCHEDULE A.

Be it remembered, that on this day of in the year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and of and appeared before me a stipendiary magistrate of the colony of Saint Lucia, and in my presence signed their names or marks to the following contract of service.

The said agrees to hire the services of the said and the said agrees to render to the said services in the capacity of for years, commencing on the day of in the year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and . And it is further agreed between the said parties that the said shall be employed as for days in each week, and that the hours of labour of the said shall not be more than nine hours daily, between sunrise and sunset, with a break of at least one hour for rest.

And it is further agreed between the said parties that the said shall pay to the said as such servant as aforesaid, wages at and after the same daily rate as is paid to the labourers not under indenture or agreement, working on said estate, according to the quantity of work performed, for the remuneration of the services of the said and that such wages shall be paid on the first and fifteenth day of each month.

And lastly, the said doth hereby bind and oblige himself to give, grant, and provide to and for the said good and comfortable lodging, at least one-half acre of provision garden land, and proper medical attendance and medicines, during the period for which this present contract is made, subject to deductions from the wages of the said at the rate of twelve shillings per annum for medical attendance, and at the rate of twelve shillings per annum for lodging and provision grounds.

The amount advanced to the said previous to his embarkation, and to be deducted from his wages, is

The preceding agreement was signed by the above-named parties in my presence on the day and year above written, voluntarily, the same being, as far as I am able to judge, fully understood by them respectively.

Stipendiary Magistrate.

SCHEDULE B.

These are to certify that I, , Immigration Agent, at the request of the Coolie immigrant , who arrived in this colony on the day of , in the ship , and whose services were assigned to , in respect of estate, in the district, for the space of years, do transfer the services of the said to of , in respect of the estate, from to be computed from the day of 18 .

Immigration Agent.

SCHEDULE C.

Return of Coolie Immigrants, on Estate for the Half-year ending 185 .

Name of Employer.	Name of Immigrant.		Date and Term of Contract.	Days labour performed.	No. of Days absent.	Deaths.	Desertion.	Births.		Remarks.
	M.	F.						M.	F.	

APPENDIX No. 27.

L.S.

SAINT LUCIA.—No. 6, 11th October 1854.

(Signed) MAURICE POWER.

AN ORDINANCE enacted by his Excellency Maurice Power, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of Saint Lucia and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same; and by the Legislative Council thereof, &c. &c. &c., to repeal the Twenty-fifth Clause of an Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the Immigration of Coolies into this Colony at the public Expense, and for the Regulation and Government of such Immigrants."

Preamble.

WHEREAS, by the 25th clause of the Ordinance No. 3 of 22d April 1854, entitled "An "Ordinance to provide for the Immigration of Coolies into this Colony at the public "Expense, and for the Regulation and Government of such Emigrants;" it is enacted, that any immigrant may commute his right to a free return passage on receiving an adequate portion of Crown land in lieu thereof: And whereas it is now considered expedient that such clause granting such absolute commutation should be repealed: Be it therefore enacted and ordained by his Excellency Maurice Power, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor in and over the island of Saint Lucia and its dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of Government, in exercise of the powers and authority in him and them vested by Her Majesty in that behalf:—

Words of enactment.

25th clause of the Ordinance No. 3 of 22 April repealed.

I. That the 25th clause of the said above-recited Ordinance, No. 3, of 22d April 1854, shall be repealed, and the same is hereby repealed accordingly.

Ordinance when to be in force.

II. And be it enacted, that this Ordinance shall be in force on, from, and after the proclamation thereof.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the said island of Saint Lucia this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and in the eighteenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By command,

(Signed) R. G. M'HUGH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Duly proclaimed in the town of Castries this thirtieth day of October, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

(Signed) CHARLES BENNETT,
Provost Marshal General.

APPENDIX No. 28.

ST. LUCIA.—No. 6, 17th July, 1856.*

AN ORDINANCE enacted by his Excellency Francis Hinks, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Saint Lucia and its Dependencies and by the Legislative Council thereof, &c. &c. &c.,

Title. To suspend for a limited Period the Duties imposed on the Exportation of Sugar, Rum, and Molasses, under the Royal Order in Council of Eighteeth Day of October One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

[L.S.] FRANCIS HINKS, Governor-in-Chief.

Preamble. WHEREAS by the Royal Order in Council of the Eighteenth day of October one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, ratifying, confirming and finally enacting an Ordnance of this island, dated the third day of March one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, entitled "An Ordinance to raise a Loan for promoting the Immigration of Coolie "Labourers into the Island of Saint Lucia," it is enacted that to guarantee the payment of the said Loan, there shall be levied and paid on all sugar, rum, and molasses, exported from this colony, certain duties in the said Royal Order mentioned, and whereas in consequence of the non arrival of such Coolie immigrants, it is expedient that for a time to be limited, no duties should be levied upon the exportation of the said articles, or any of them: Be it therefore enacted, by his Excellency Francis Hincks, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the island of Saint Lucia and its dependencies, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of this island, in exercise of the powers and authority in him and them vested by Her Majesty in that behalf.

Words of Enactment.

Section I. Duties imposed on sugar, rum, and molasses exported under the Royal Order in Council of 18th October, 1854, for immigration purposes to be discontinued.

1. That no duty shall be chargeable under the said Royal Order in Council of the eighteenth day of October one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, upon any sugar, rum, or molasses, to be hereafter exported from this colony, after the proclamation of this Ordinance, and before the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

Section II. Ordinance when to be in force.

2. And be it enacted, that this Ordinance shall be in force upon the proclamation thereof, and continue in force until the said thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, hnd no longer: Provided always, that it shall not be proclaimed until it shall have been duly ratified and confirmed by Her Majesty.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the said island of Saint Lucia, this seventeenth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and in the twentieth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By command,

J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

Duly proclaimed in the town of Castries this 31st day of December in the year 1856.

SAMUEL BARNARD,
Deputy Marshal.

* This Ordinance was confirmed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere's Despatch. No. 34, 24th November 1856.

St. Kitts.

APPENDIX No. 29.

No. 422.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER.

An Act to encourage the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers; for such Purpose to grant an Aid to Her Majesty by a Tax upon Exports, and to repeal certain Clauses of an Act regulating the relative Rights and Duties of Masters and Servants.

[Dated 2d April 1855.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to encourage immigration by payment of a bounty on the introduction of agricultural labourers: Be it therefore enacted by the Governor of the islands of Saint Christopher and Anguilla, and by the Council and Assembly of the same: **Preamble.**

I. That in addition to the existing duty on exports there shall be paid for the purposes of this Act by the shipper or exporter into the Treasury of this island for Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors, the additional sum, tax, or duty of four shillings and twopence on every hogshead of sugar, and of one shilling and a halfpenny on every puncheon of molasses, and of two shillings and one penny on every puncheon of rum, and of one penny on every barrel of salt, and so in proportion on all and any other packages or package of the same article, which shall be shipped or exported from this island of Saint Christopher. **Tax.** 4*s.* 2*d.* on hhd. sugar. 1*s.* ½*d.* on pun. mol. 2*s.* 1*d.* on pun. rum. 1*d.* on barrel salt.

II. And be it enacted, that the additional tax, sum, or duty hereby imposed shall be raised, levied, collected, enforced, and paid in like manner and under the same regulations, pains, and penalties as are at present observed and in force for raising, levying, collecting, enforcing, and paying a similar tax under the provisions of an Act now in force, and passed on the twentieth day of August, One thousand eight hundred and fifty, intituled "An Act "to abolish Parochial Vestries; to make Provision for the Payment of Parish Debts; to "consolidate Benefices, and to provide for the Payment of the Stipends of the Clergy by "a Tax upon Exports and upon certain Rentals." **Mode of collection of tax.** (No. 695.)

III. And be it enacted, that all moneys, fines, and penalties which shall be levied, paid to, or received by the Treasurer under the provisions of this Act shall be applied to the purposes of immigration. **Appropriation of tax.**

IV. And be it enacted, that the Treasurer shall keep a register of all immigrants to or for whom bounty shall be paid under the provisions of this Act, distinguishing under different heads the name, sex, and age of each such immigrant, and the day when, and the vessel in which such immigrant arrived, and the party with whom such immigrant entered into contract, and a true copy of such register shall be laid by the Treasurer before the Committee appointed under the provisions of this Act, together with an account of the receipts and expenditure, at such quarterly meetings as the said Committee may appoint for the audit of such accounts. **Duty of Treasurer.**

V. And be it enacted, that a Committee from the Board of Council and House of Assembly shall in each and every year during the operation of this Act be appointed by the Board of Council and House of Assembly from their respective bodies, to consist of two members of the Board of Council and five members of the House of Assembly, and that it be the duty of such Committee to guard against the introduction of a larger number of immigrants than the funds available will pay for, and to provide for the housing and medical attendance or hospital accommodation, and for the support and maintenance of such immigrants until they can be properly located, and generally to carry into effect the object of this Act, and for such purpose to frame such rules as may be necessary. **Legislative committee.**

VI. And be it enacted, that such Committee, when appointed, shall continue to act until superseded by the appointment of another Committee, notwithstanding the expiration by efflux of time, or dissolution of the House of Assembly from which the Committee was so appointed. **Continuance of committee.**

VII. And be it enacted, that any rules or rule made by the said Committee from time to time, when sanctioned by the Board of Council and House of Assembly, and approved by the Governor, shall have the force of law, and be received and construed with and as part of this Act. **Rules to have the force of law.**

VIII. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor from time to time, on the application of the Chairman of the aforesaid Legislative Committee, to issue his warrant to the treasurer for payment of the bounties in the Schedule to this Act annexed to any person or persons who shall have imported or who shall import during the operation of this Act into this island, from the places in the said Schedule mentioned, any agricultural labourer or labourers above the age of fifteen and below forty years, who shall have **Governor to issue warrant on Treasurer for bounty.**

ST. KITTS

entered or shall enter into a binding and written contract to work on any estate or estates, or lands therein, for the space of three years, such term of three years to commence and be computed from the day of landing of such labourer or labourers, and any child or children above the age of ten and under the age of fifteen years who shall have accompanied any such labourer, being his or her child or reputed child, or near relative.

Governor to issue warrant on Treasurer for payment of expenses of housing, &c. for immigrants.

IX. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor from time to time to issue his warrant to the Treasurer for payment of any expenses which may be incurred for the housing and medical attendance or hospital accommodation, and also for the support and maintenance of any such immigrant until they can be properly located to the satisfaction of the Governor.

Treasurer to demand one-half of the bounty from person contracting with immigrant.

X. And be it enacted, that the Treasurer shall demand and receive of and from the person or persons with whom any such agricultural labourer or labourers shall have entered or shall enter into such binding and written contract as aforesaid, the repayment of one-half of the bounty or bounties so directed to be paid by the said Treasurer in respect of the introduction of such labourer or labourers, and that in the event of default in payment thereof, the Treasurer shall sue for the same, and in any such action shall recover not only the said sum and sums, but the further sum of fifty pounds by way of penalty for such default.

Repeal of 11th and 12th clauses of Masters and Servants Act, No. 682.

XI. And whereas, by the eleventh clause of an Act passed on the eighteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, and intituled "An Act for regulating the "relative Rights and Duties of Masters and Servants in the Island of Saint Christopher," it is enacted that no contract for service shall be binding for any period exceeding twelve months: And whereas the twelfth clause of the same Act limits and defines the places beyond the island where alone contracts for service may be made: And whereas it is necessary, to give effect to the provisions of this Act, that contracts for service shall be binding though made for a period exceeding twelve months, and in places beyond the island other than those limited by the said Act: Be it enacted, that the said eleventh and twelfth clauses of the Act, intituled "An Act for regulating the relative Rights and "Duties of Masters and Servants in the Island of Saint Christopher," shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

Contracts binding for three years.

XII. And be it enacted, that no contract for service shall be binding for any period exceeding three years.

Contract to be countersigned by Superintendent of Immigrants.

XIII. And be it enacted, that no contract for service by immigrants shall be valid, unless countersigned by the Superintendent of Immigrants in this island, and that such Superintendent shall be at liberty to refuse his counter-signature in case it appears to him that any fraud has been practised, or that the contract is evidently unreasonable.

Interpretation Clause.

XIV. And be it enacted, that the word "Governor" shall be construed to mean the Officer for the time being administering the Government of Saint Christopher.

Duration of Act.

XV. And be it enacted, that this Act shall be and continue in force from the passing thereof for the space of three years, and from thence until the expiration of the then sitting Assembly.

SCHEDULE.

	£	s.	d.
Every labourer from Madeira, the Azores, Europe, the United States, and the British Possessions in North America - - - - -	7	0	0
Every child from any of those places - - - - -	3	10	0

Passed the House of Assembly this 22nd day of February 1855.

JOS. K. WATTLEY, Clerk Assembly.

Passed the Board of Council this 15th day of March 1855.

T. P. BERRIDGE, Clerk Council.
ARCH. PAULL BURT, Speaker.

Dated at Saint Christopher, this second day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and in the eighteenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON,
Lieutenant-Governor.

APPENDIX No. 30.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER.

No. 430.

*AN ACT further to encourage the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers, and to alter the Law relating thereto. [Dated 1st October 1855.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS the bounty on the introduction of agricultural labourers under the provisions of an Act intituled "An Act to encourage the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers, for such Purpose to grant an Aid to Her Majesty by a Tax upon Exports, and to repeal certain Clauses of an Act regulating the relative Rights and Duties of Masters and

* This Act was, among others, left to its operation by Mr. Secretary Labouchere's Despatch, No. 12, 16th February 1856.

Servants," and dated the second day of April, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, is payable only in respect of agricultural labourers above the age of fifteen and below forty years of age, and of their children above the age of ten and under the age of fifteen years of age: And whereas it has been found that the bounty so limited does not hold out sufficient inducement to families desirous to emigrate, inasmuch as no provision is thereby made for the transport of the old and young members: Be it therefore enacted by the Officer Administering the Government of the Islands of Saint Christopher and Anguilla, and by the Council and Assembly of the same:

No. 717.

I. That after the passing of this Act, the words "above the age of fifteen and below forty years," and the words "above the age of ten and under the age of fifteen years," shall be expunged from the VIII Clause of the said recited Act, and that the said Clause shall be read, construed, and received as if the said words had never been therein inserted.

Limitation of age of immigrants contained in Act No. 717 expunged.

II. And whereas by the VII Clause of the said in part recited Act it is enacted, "That any Rules or Rule made by the said Committee from Time to Time, when sanctioned by the Board of Council and House of Assembly, and approved by the Governor, shall have the Force of Law and be received and construed with and as Part of this Act:" And whereas it is proper that the Royal veto should be preserved in like manner as in the passing of Acts: Be it therefore further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the words "subject nevertheless to the Royal veto" be added to the said VII Clause, and that the said words be read, construed, and received as part of the said clause, as if the said words had originally formed part thereof.

The Royal veto, preserved in rules to be made by the committee by virtue of Clause VII. of the Act No. 717.

ARCHD. PAULL BURT, Speaker.

Passed the House of Assembly, this first day of September, A.D. 1855.
(Signed) JOS. K. WATTLEY, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Board of Council, this first day of September, A.D. 1855.
(Signed) T. P. BERRIDGE, Clerk of Council.

Dated at Saint Christopher, this first day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and in the nineteenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON.

APPENDIX No. 31.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER.

No. 437.

AN ACT further to encourage the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers.

[Dated this 15th October 1856.]

WHEREAS there is no provision made for the appropriation of any money for the promotion of immigration anterior to the arrival of immigrants in this island under an Act intituled "An Act to encourage the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers, for such purpose to grant an Aid to Her Majesty by a Tax upon Exports, and to repeal certain Clauses of an Act regulating the relative Rights and Duties of Masters and Servants:" Be it therefore enacted by the Officer Administering the Government of Her Majesty's Islands of Saint Christopher and Anguilla, and by the Council and Assembly of the same:

Preamble.

I. That it shall be lawful for the Officer Administering the Government, on application of the Chairman of the Immigration Committee, to issue his warrant on the Treasury for the payment from time to time of such sums out of the immigration fund as the said Committee shall find necessary for such purpose.

Governor authorized to draw on the Treasury for any moneys for the promotion of immigration which may be required previous to the arrival of immigrants.

II. That the Cape de Verde Islands shall be deemed and taken to be places from which immigrants may be obtained and bounty paid, as if the same were originally inserted in the Schedule to the herein-before recited Act.

Cape de Verde islands added to the Schedule.

(Signed) THOS. TURNER, Speaker.

Passed the House of Assembly, this 18th day of September 1856.
(Signed) JOS. K. WATTLEY, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Board of Council, this 2nd day of October 1856.
(Signed) T. P. BERRIDGE, Clerk of Council.

Dated at Saint Christopher, this fifteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON.

Digitized with financial assistance from
Ms. Rowena T Robinson
on 29 March, 2019

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.